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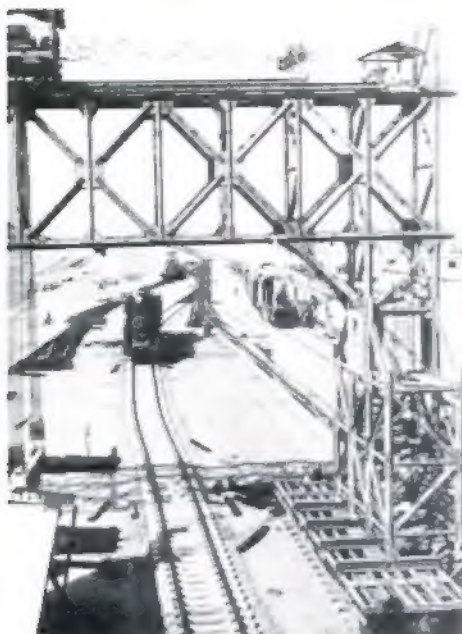
BEIJING REVIEW

北京周報

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

- Chinese Leader On Hongkong Agreement
- Relationships Between CPC and Foreign Parties
- More Power for Modernization

Communications and Transportation Speed Into the Future



Construction of the Yanzhou-Shijiusuo railway in Shandong Province is stepping up.



Ma Xila, a senior engineer with the Shanghai Communication Equipment Plant, has developed an automatic control device for internal combustion locomotives.



A highway from Zunyi, a historic city, to Maotai where the renowned spirit Maotai is produced, in Guizhou Province zigzags up a mountain.

Electric locomotives roll off the production line at the Zhuzhou Electric Locomotive Plant in Hunan.



SPOTLIGHT

Shijiu Harbour in Shandong Province will be able to handle 15 million tons of coal a year when completed.



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COVER: A 500,000-volt transmission line has been installed over the Changjiang River in Jinkou.	

Photo by Yu Changjun

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Hongkong Policy Won't Change

Chairman Deng Xiaoping and Premier Zhao Ziyang have said that China will implement the Hongkong agreement to the letter and the "one country, two systems" policy won't be changed in the future (p. 6).

CPC Develops Foreign Relationships

The Communist Party of China has various forms of friendly ties with more than 150 parties and organizations in foreign countries, including communist, socialist, social democratic and labour parties, and different kinds of political parties in the third world countries (p. 19).

US Readjusts Its Economic Strategy

Since the mid-1970s, the United States has gradually shifted its economic focus abroad to the Asian-Pacific region. A Chinese scholar analyses the causes of this important US trend and its impact on Washington's policy towards the region (p. 21).

New Policies Stimulate Tibet's Growth

Greater flexibility in economic matters, the stress on a diversified economy and commodity production, and the new "open policy" are speeding up developments on the "Roof of the World" (p. 4).

Power Plant Construction Lagging Behind

Despite the rapid expansion of the power industry in recent years, electricity output still falls far short of the nation's ever-growing needs. The shortfall could be serious this winter (p. 8).

Women's Rights Upheld in China

With the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, Chinese law has upheld equal rights for women. Serious violations of their rights are punishable by law (p. 27).

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Tibet: New Policies Bring Changes

by AN ZHIGUO
Political Editor

Expectations are running high among peasants on the "Roof of the World" that after three years of crop failures agriculture will recover this year. Although some of the autumn crops have not yet been brought in, a good harvest on a regional scale is already a certainty.

Tibet's promising agriculture is attributable to plentiful rainfall in the past several months. But equally important, or even more so from the long-term point of view, is the peasants' soaring enthusiasm for production, kindled by the package of new economic policies formulated last March by the central authorities to boost the autonomous region's economic development.

Farmland has been allotted by household to the tillers, who now have their own say in what to grow and how much to keep and sell out of their own harvests. This gives everyone hope to earn a better living by diligent work.

That "do-as-you-like" policy has also contributed to the revival of traditional animal husbandry—the key sector in the Tibetan economy. The herdsmen have received their share of animal herds, with a free hand in buying and selling. To get high economic returns, they eagerly use advanced breeding techniques and improved breeds. The result is that within a year the animals' survival rate has risen from 70 per cent to more than 80 per cent.

The emphasis of rural work is

being shifted to animal husbandry as part of the effort to achieve a balanced development of livestock breeding, reforestation and farming. Large tracts of pastureland formerly destroyed to grow grain have again been sown with grass for foraging.

The essential policies in the government's "new package," which have been in force for some time, were the results of thorough discussions in early 1980 between Party General Secretary Hu Yao-

Three years of bad weather and the remnants of "Leftism" had stunted the Tibetans' efforts to achieve bigger progress. But a good beginning made this year has revved up a feeling of optimism about the future.

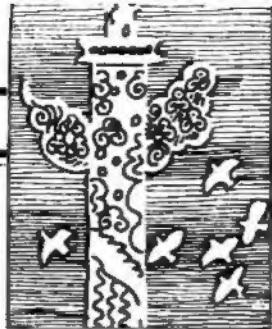
bang and other national and local leaders. On the basis of summing up the experiences over the last few years and further repudiating "Leftism," the package has substantiated those policies, with a few points added. The keynote: Develop the economy and let the Tibetans become well off quickly.

The stress on a diversified economy and commodity production has pumped new life into all undertakings. In the rural areas, there are 3,500 households specializing in aquaculture, industry, sideline production and transportation. Traditional handicrafts have

come into their own, with more and more products in distinctive Tibetan styles, such as carpets and gold and silver ware, finding their way into domestic and overseas markets. In Lhasa, Xigaze and other cities, 22,000 self-employed industrial and commercial workers had emerged by the end of last August. The numerous fairs are teeming with activity, as an abundant supply of commodities lure large flocks of buyers.

Much of the people's economic burden has been removed. In order that the Tibetans can "rest and recuperate," the state has stopped setting purchase quotas for grain, butter and meat. No taxes will be levied until 1990. Subsidies for commune and production brigade leaders are paid by the regional financial department instead of by the peasants and herdsmen themselves, and social relief funds have increased in rural areas to cover all orphans and old people without families, who used to be supported by local communities. All these measures have combined with an upswing in production to bring the Tibetans increasingly greater cash incomes. In the first six months of 1984, total savings deposits in both rural and urban areas registered a 20 per cent rise over the same period of last year.

Conspicuous in the "new package" is a new element—the open policy. For Tibet, this policy has a double meaning: the expansion of border trade with China's neighbours and co-operation with the rest of the country. At present, unsparing help is flowing in steadily from China's more developed regions, bringing the much needed labour, funds and expertise. Si-



chuan alone sent 10,000 construction workers. Large numbers of technicians and skilled workers have also arrived from eight other provinces and municipalities to join in the construction of Tibet's 43 new projects.

These projects include, among power plants, hospitals and schools, a number of tourist hotels. Tibet's charming landscape and unique culture and folkways are perennial tourist attractions. Even in the absence of publicity, Tibet received 6,300 overseas travellers from 1980 to 1983. The recent appearance of taxis in the ancient city of Lhasa is a sure sign of a forthcoming boom in tourism. This will become a steady source of foreign exchange income for the region.

In appraising the economic situation in Tibet, however, it must be pointed out that three consecutive years of bad weather, plus the remnants of the "Leftist" ways of doing things that had held sway for many years, had stunted the Tibetans' efforts to achieve bigger progress. But this year's good beginning has revved up a feeling of optimism about the future. All indications are that with the new policies taking root solidly, Tibet's target of doubling the per-capita annual income within three to five years is attainable.



LETTERS

Hard-Hitting Hainan Article

Your article on Hainan in issue No. 30 is excellent, factual, succinct, scientific, hard-hitting and low key. The only thing that strikes me as wrong with the article is the title — presumably supplied not by the writer but by a sub-editor. Serious reading of the article suggests that it should not be "Hainan — a Treasure Island" but "Hainan — a Treasure Island Laid Waste."

I must confess that I long ago allowed our subscription to *Beijing Review* to lapse, thinking that it would still be the same old wordy, rose-tinted jargon. The Hainan article is far from that. Let's have more like it.

Now I want to renew our subscription.

David Crook
Beijing Foreign Languages
Institute

Praise for Exam System

When I first subscribed to *Beijing Review* last April, I only thought it would help me understand China's economic situation. However, after reading it, I have not only learnt about your country's economic situation, but also discovered your country's many other merits, which deserve to be studied.

For instance, the article "Enthusiasm for Study Among China's Youth" in issue No. 32 greatly inspired me. It describes how young Chinese people earn their diplomas by studying on their own. I used to think there should be college equivalency examinations in Japan, but I didn't know the real situation in our country. It

was not until I started working outside a school that I realized that talented as they are, workers can never be promoted to managers, while college graduates can be smoothly promoted after two years in a workshop, even if they are ignorant of the workings of the factory. As a result, inexperienced people climb up the ladder to leading positions, while skilled and capable workers can be nothing but competent workers all their lives. In addition, in most enterprises workers do not receive the same treatment as college graduates. We definitely need to look into this problem.

I hope the Chinese system of college equivalency examinations can be introduced in Japan. Only in this way can the problem I mentioned above be eliminated, and the workers' enthusiasm fired to study more diligently.

Mikio Sudo
Chiba, Japan

Insights on Development

The new coloured cover is superb. It enhances our interest and motivation to read every article.

The stories are very interesting and educational. They give me greater insights into the development efforts of your country, especially your focus on the greater participation of your people, and particularly the retirees.

I am particularly interested in your development efforts for children and minorities and the decentralization of development efforts in the rural areas.

Donald D. Decaesstecker,
Manila, the Philippines

Leaders: HK Policy Will Not Be Altered

Though the world cheered the Sept. 26 initialling of the Sino-British joint declaration on Hongkong, there were some who questioned whether the declaration will actually be implemented and whether China will change its policies.

Such apprehensions were dismissed by Premier Zhao Ziyang and Chairman Deng Xiaoping during meetings early this month. Zhao met with Hongkong public figures, including the territory's chief secretary, Sir Philip Haddon-cave, on Oct. 2. And Deng, Chairman of the CPC Central Advisory Commission, met with a delegation of Hongkong and Macao compatriots on Oct. 3.

Zhao said the Chinese Government and people "are as much concerned about Hongkong's stability and prosperity as the people of Britain and Hongkong, because a stable and prosperous Hongkong is beneficial to China's reunification and four-modernization drive, while a turbulent and economically depressed Hongkong is not in her long-term interest."

The Premier continued, "The declaration will stand the test of history. Britain and China had shown a spirit of mutual understanding and accommodation during their two-year negotiations, and were both serious and cautious in their talks."

China was not only serious in its negotiations, Zhao said, but will implement the declaration to the letter.

Zhao held that the joint declaration: (1) will help maintain the

stability and prosperity of Hongkong while creating favourable conditions for China's modernization and reunification; (2) will benefit peace in the Far East and the world; (3) will open up greater prospects for Sino-British co-operation; and (4) will provide new experience in peacefully solving international issues.

"Since the people in China and Britain and in Hongkong regard the declaration as the best one they can have, what reason do we have not to implement it?" asked Zhao.

Deng, in his Oct. 3 comments, noted that "one country, two systems" is a new concept in the world. "We propose this method not because of the Hongkong issue we are facing, but to safeguard world peace, which is the general principle of our foreign policy." Deng said that new ways are needed to solve conflicts in the international arena.

In a separate meeting with some 60 foreign scientists of Chinese origin, Deng said that the concept of "one country, two systems" was developed on the basis of historical developments and China's current situation. "While the one billion people on the mainland resolutely practise socialism, some regions will be allowed to implement special policies and practise capitalism," he said.

"Some people have asked whether China's policy towards Hongkong will be changed. I replied there is no reason to change it. No good will come from changing it," Deng said.

When asked whether future Chi-

nese leaders will change the policy, Zhao said, "China's policies are not worked out, nor can they be changed, by the will of one leader."

Addressing concerns about Hongkong's status after the 50-year period ends in the year 2047, Deng said, "Acting in good faith is a tradition of the Chinese nation. A big country should have its own dignity and principles to follow. In the joint declaration, China stated that Hongkong's capitalist system and lifestyle will remain unchanged for 50 years, so the next generation will not change the policy. After the 50 years' period, mainland China will be developed and it will not handle its affairs in a petty way."

Deng told the delegation of more than 200 compatriots from Hongkong and Macao, "We share the same goal of ensuring the prosperity and stability of Hongkong in the next 13 years and later." Deng said he hopes the compatriots will love the motherland, as well as Hongkong.

Speaking of the Taiwan organizations in Hongkong, Deng said that their continued presence after 1997 shall be allowed. "They may continue to advocate the Three-People's Principles and even criticize the Communist Party if they like, but they won't be allowed to create disturbances," he added.

Deng went on to say, "Moreover, they won't be allowed to create 'two Chinas,' for the question is not merely the concern of the mainland and Taiwan, but also an international question."

Taiwan's Press Eyes HK Accord

The initialling of the Sino-British joint declaration on Hongkong received much attention from the press in Taiwan.

And while some newspapers reflected the Taiwan authorities' distrust of Chinese sovereignty over Hongkong, others welcomed the style and substance of the agreement that will return Hongkong to China in 1997.

Many of Taiwan's newspapers front-paged the Hongkong agreement in their September 27 editions. Some published the full text of the declaration, along with the three annexes that spelled out the full intentions of both China and Britain. Others also published the chronology of the Sino-British negotiations, along with maps showing the areas that will be turned over to China.

Newspapers such as the *Zili Evening News* told their readers that the Hongkong issue had been resolved according to the concept of "one country, two systems."

In a September 28 editorial, the *Minzhong Daily* said, "Today Britain has finally accepted reality and decided to return its 'Oriental pearl' to the Chinese Communist Party. This is a landmark, a thought-provoking event for all the Chinese as well." The paper continued, "To the Chinese living in various parts of the world, the day the accord was initialled between China and Britain is most memorable."

Lianhe Bao on September 28 published minutes of talks titled "Experts and Scholars on Initialled Accord." In it, Tao Baichuan, a "presidential state policy adviser," said, "I feel much gratified to learn

that Hongkong can finally end its lot as a colony."

The Taiwan press also noted that the initialling of the Sino-British accord has resulted in a keener interest among the island's industrial and commercial circles in the development of Taiwan's economic and trade relations with Hongkong. In their opinion, the interests of Taiwan and Hongkong are closely related, considering Hongkong's position as a transportation, communications, monetary and industrial leader. The press predicted that Hongkong's changes will have an impact on Taiwan's business community.

The Taiwan authorities, however, chose to ignore the nation's fundamental interest and the aspirations of all Chinese people to reunify. A September 26 statement said that Taiwan's officials "do not recognize" the joint declaration concerning China's resuming the exercise of its sovereignty over Hongkong. To this, *Minzhong Daily* responded in an editorial two days later by saying that the Taiwan authorities may not recognize the political power of the Chinese Communist Party, but they cannot refuse to recognize the fact that Britain will return the sovereignty over Hongkong to China.

Plenum Planned For Urban Reform

Urban reforms, which require greater courage than those in the countryside, will be the main topic of the upcoming Third Session of the 12th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, Chairman Deng Xiaoping announced. The session is set to be held sometime this month.

Deng, Chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the CPC,

said, "The rural reforms began after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee (in December 1978 — Ed.) and our policies for the rural areas have proved effective. The peasants are getting better off." He said the main topic of the Third Plenary Session of the 12th Party Central Committee will cover an even larger range, including industry, commerce, science and culture. "I believe the forth-coming session will have historical significance," he said.

Deng continued, "Now the focus of reform is shifting from the countryside to the cities. This means that an all-round reform is under way. Reforms are urgent. If the urban reforms are not carried out, and the cities fail to meet the needs of the developing countryside, where 80 per cent of China's population lives, further advances in the countryside will be hindered," he said. "From the reforms in the countryside, we can see that urban reforms are not only necessary, but sure to succeed. With this achievement we will be able to achieve the goal of quadrupling the gross annual value of industrial and agricultural output by the end of the century."

FRG-China Ties Stressed by Zhao

On the eve of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's six-day visit to China, Premier Zhao Ziyang told a group of W. German journalists that the two countries hope to develop their already sound relations even further.

Zhao said he hoped talks with Kohl will yield further co-operation in the fields of energy sources, trade and industrial modernization in China. Chinese companies have already worked with German

enterprises on steel production, the airbus and nuclear power projects.

Zhao said that the two countries see eye-to-eye on safeguarding world peace and relaxing international tension. China, the Premier said, would be interested in working with other nations to bring about disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament.

When Zhao was asked what might enable the Soviet Union and the United States to resume a dialogue, the Premier said that the two superpowers should first stop deploying new nuclear weapons in Europe and agree on eliminating a large number of them.

On China's relations with the Soviets, Zhao said the two countries have held four rounds of consultations, with the fifth scheduled for next month in Beijing. Though the talks were held in a friendly atmosphere, Zhao said, no substantive progress has been made on removing the major stumbling blocks to better relations.

"The consultations will continue and we hope that the Soviet Union will relax its position on the major problems that hamper relations between the two countries," Zhao said.

Canada and China Co-operation Urged

Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang last week told visiting René Lévesque, Premier of Canada's Quebec Province, that there is great potential for economic and technical co-operation between the two countries. The two nations can be good partners rather than competitors, Zhao said.

During the Oct. 4 meeting, both sides agreed that political and economic co-operation between China and Canada has taken great strides and will develop further. This is the second time within 10 months

that Zhao and Lévesque have met. Premier Zhao visited Quebec last January during his visit to Canada. During his visit, Zhao suggested that China and Canada should become a prime example of how countries with different systems can co-operate.

On Oct. 1, as China celebrated its National Day, a Canadian newspaper observed that China's modernization drive is an excellent opportunity for Canada to develop economic ties with the largest country in Asia. Moreover, since Canada does not recognize Taiwan, the paper noted, "We don't have the burden of Taiwan. We should take advantage of this."

Because 70 per cent of Canada's GNP results from exports and imports, Canada has a strong interest in the Chinese market. And China, naturally, needs advanced technology from the developed country to help boost its economy. The two countries have, indeed, already started co-operation in fields such as telecommunications, hydro-electric power plants, papermaking and medical supplies and instruments.

Zhao pointed out to Lévesque that 14 of China's coastal cities have been designated as open to foreign investment and noted that the cities would welcome economic co-operation from Canada. "The Chinese market will grow from a potential one to a real one with the development of China's economy," Zhao said.

Zhao said he hopes entrepreneurs from Canada, including those from Quebec, will invest in China. "If the investors provide really advanced technology, we will allow them to sell a proportion of their products in China," Zhao added. He expressed his belief that Lévesque's visit will result in spurred development of Sino-Canadian economic and technological co-operation.

Power Stations In High Gear

Most people don't pay attention to statistics on electricity generation, but they can't help feeling the current electric rush in home appliances, new factories and new buildings.

According to the 1983 statistics, China's annual generating capacity has grown to the sixth highest in the world. In 1949, China's electrical capacity ranked 25th. The country now generates in four and a half days as much energy as it did in a full year back in the early 1950s.

In the past few years, China has invested large amounts of labour, materials and funds for the construction of power stations. In 1983 alone, the nation constructed plants which have a capacity of 4.46 million kilowatts. Of the 46 major state energy projects planned this year, 26 concern electrical power.

China today has 4,300 power plants, each having a generating capacity of 500 kw. Of those, 170 can produce more than 100,000 kw.

Among all the forms of electric power plants, hydraulic and thermal generators are the two most common ones. The Gezhouba Hydroelectric Station being expanded in Yichang, Hubei Province, is the largest hydroelectric station in China. It has an annual generating capacity of 2.715 million kw. By 1983, small hydroelectric stations which have spread across the countryside had expanded to a total annual generating capacity of 8.50 million kw. The small stations light 80 per cent of the villages.

People all over the country are making use of geothermal energy, tidal and wind power, and biogas to generate electricity. And nuclear



A power plant with a generating capacity of 200,000 kw was built in Datong, Shanxi Province.

power has just begun to emerge in China, as two large-scale nuclear power plants are under construction in Zhejiang and Guangdong Provinces.

Winter Will See Electricity Shortage. Many areas of China will experience electricity shortages this winter because power growth can't keep pace with the needs for the rapid economic development, according to the Ministry of Water Resources and Electric Power.

In the first half of this year, the gross industrial output value increased 11.4 per cent over the corresponding period last year, but the electricity output went up only 7.3 per cent. Now the country is short of 10 million kilowatts of its needed electricity generating capacity and 40 billion kwh of electricity.

The electricity shortage is worsened by lower water levels in reservoirs that supply water power for major hydroelectric plants. The reservoirs are 25 per cent lower than last year.

Winter is traditionally a time of high electricity demand. Industrial enterprises use more power as they try to fulfil production quotas before the end of the fourth quarter

and the darkness of winter calls for more use of lights in homes and work places. The electricity shortfall, therefore, could pose serious problems in some regions in the months ahead.

Rural Women Gain Economic Status

Women in China's countryside find many opportunities to show their economic initiative, because the production responsibility system enables them to choose the kind of work they do best.

Women in Huage village, Hunan Province, used to complain that because they were not as strong as men they could not earn as many workpoints. (Under the workpoint system, the more work you finished, the more points you received.) Cotton growing, which requires less physical effort but meticulous care, was the women's speciality.

In 1981, 2,940 specialized households were set up. In 64 per cent of these households women are the major cotton-growers. The yield of ginned cotton averaged 855 kg per hectare that year. But as the women realized that now they

could really earn something for their meticulous work, the yield soared to 1,680 kg per hectare in 1983.

The outskirts of 12 cities in Heilongjiang Province have 20,000 poultry breeders. Almost all of them are women. About 85 per cent of the eggs sold in the city of Qiqihar are provided by women contractors.

In the past, women with small children or old people to care for were unable to leave home to earn workpoints in the fields. But now that they can work in other ways, they can arrange their time to accommodate both work and family. For example, Lu Xueying of Jiangxi Province had always depended on relief because her husband is handicapped and she had to stay home to take care of him. But in 1983 she signed a contract to raise oxen, pigs, chickens, bees and pigeons all around her home, and she also planted a few fruit trees. In a year she earned 2,400 yuan, giving the couple a very comfortable living standard.

Scientific farming requires some education. However, the educational level of women is very low in the rural areas. A 1981 survey showed that 62.5 per cent of the

illiterates between 12 and 15 years of age were girls.

Women's federation organizations have insisted that genuine equality between men and women will be difficult to achieve if this trend is allowed to continue. So the All-China Federation of Women and all its local branches are lending a helping hand. They organize training classes, night schools, lectures, technical consultant services, radio courses and public journals and pamphlets to pass on general and technical information.

Women are also helping each other. Dong Fengjiao of Hunan Province went to Changsha, capital of the province, where she paid her way to study edible fungus cultivation. Back at home she raised mushrooms, and shared her skills with more than 1,000 people. She also distributes mimeographed notes free of charge.

Because rural women are housewives and buyers themselves, they have become very effective salespeople. Between 60 and 70 per cent of the stall keepers at village fairs in Fuyu County, Yunnan Province, are women. In Lixian County, Hebei Province, the commune-run factories hire 40,000 women to travel through neighbouring counties to sell their goods.

As their economic position becomes more independent, women are gaining greater respect in the family and society. Even in families where men sign the contracts with the production brigade, they often say to the brigade leaders, "Let me go back home and discuss things with my wife before I decide."

Many men in rural China are seeing the great capabilities of women, perhaps for the first time. Women's growing financial independence and contributions to society will help many welcome the birth of a daughter and respect the

views of women, as they show their competence.

Service Centre to Aid Investment

A new economic service centre will help Chinese companies import technology, equipment and investment, establish contacts with overseas producers, step up agreements between foreign and Chinese companies, recommend qualified personnel and offer economic information.

The non-governmental organization is headed by Hu Ziang, president of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce.

The federation established the service centre in Beijing on Sept. 10.

Highways Link All Parts of China

China's more than 2,000 counties, except for one in Tibet, are now all connected by highways.

China now has 915,000 kilometres of highways, or 11.3 times the 1949 figure. They link Beijing with all the big cities, economic zones and border and coastal areas. These highways also extend to 90 per cent of the 50,000 villages and towns throughout the country.

In addition, the construction of expressways is being sped up. The expressway from Beijing to Tanggu, near the port city of Tianjin, will begin construction soon. This 152-kilometre highway will be able to accommodate 25,000 motor vehicles a day travelling at 120 kilometres (the highest speed) per hour. Another two, from Shenyang to Dalian and

from Guangzhou to Shenzhen, are being surveyed.

A 561-kilometre high standard highway was opened to traffic in November 1982, from Dushanzi (Maytag) to Kuqa in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to better develop the northwestern part of the country, which has rich resources but few people.

But the construction of highways still lags behind the quick national economic development. Only 20 per cent of the existing highways are paved with asphalt or oil residue. The rest are surfaced with sandy pebbles or mud.

Highway construction and improvement therefore present a huge task. Experts estimate that China will have one million kilometres of highways in 1990, and 1.2 or 1.3 million kilometres by the end of the century, of which 300,000 kilometres will be paved with asphalt.

CITIC Marks Its Fifth Anniversary

The China International Trust and Investment Corporation (CITIC) recently celebrated its fifth birthday as an offspring of the nation's open policy.

Deng Xiaoping inscribed for the corporation on this occasion. The inscription reads as follows: "Be boldly creative, make greater contributions."

The corporation lines up and utilizes foreign investment, imports advanced technology, equipment and management know-how, organizes joint ventures with Chinese and foreign investment and provides economic advice.

CITIC set up China's first economic consulting company and organized the nation's first group of leasing companies.

In the past five years, it has

helped set up 15 joint ventures and has arranged foreign investment in 42 Chinese construction projects. CITIC has also established business ties with some 50 countries and regions. It is known among overseas industrialists and entrepreneurs for its practical work style and high efficiency.

The company now has 300 staff members, with Rong Yiren as the president. Rong, who was a famous businessman prior to 1949, is now Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. In pre-liberation China, the Rongs owned 24 textile and dyeing factories, flour mills and machine-building plants.

Tibetans Healthier, Better Educated

Tibetans are getting taller and healthier and many more are receiving education than ever before, according to the autonomous region's statistical bureau.

New statistics show that of the 1.93 million residents of the "Roof of the World," 95.1 per cent are ethnic Tibetans. Their numbers have grown at an annual rate of 2 per cent, the highest in Tibetan history. The population is now 60 per cent higher than in 1958, the year before democratic reform put an end to serfdom in Tibet.

China's policy of "one couple one child" does not apply to sparsely populated Tibet, where more population has been encouraged as the economy develops.

The populations of other minorities in Tibet, such as the Monba, Loba, Deng and Xiacrba, have also increased considerably.

A 1982 survey of 6,600 Tibetans aged seven to 17 showed an average increase of 9.28 centimetres in height, 10 centimetres in chest measurement and 3.87 kg in weight over the 1965 figures.

The 1982 national census showed that Tibet had more than 8,000 college graduates and undergraduates, 90,900 middle school graduates and 311,000 people who had received primary school training. Before liberation, however, 99 per cent of the Tibetans were illiterate.

Expansion of agricultural production and animal husbandry techniques have improved food supplies. In 1982, Tibetan peasants and herdsmen each received an average of 272.5 kg of grain and 35.5 kg of meat. That is way up from the 100 kg of grain and small amount of meat in 1951.

Tibet now has 940 hospitals and clinics offering free medical care. The infant mortality rate has dropped from 42.7 per cent in the 1950s to 19 per cent in the 1980s.

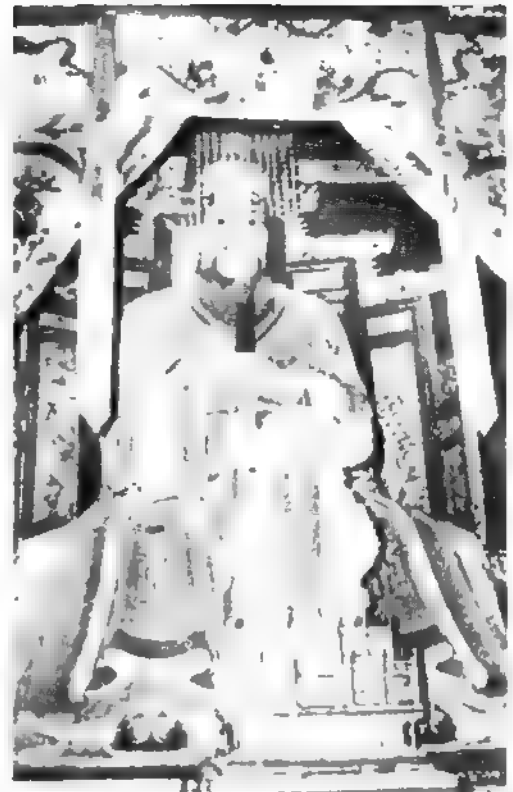
Contagious diseases such as smallpox, measles and tuberculosis have either been eliminated or controlled. Two outbreaks of measles in 1936 and 1947 killed one-third of the population in some counties in east Tibet.

Tibet's population hovered around 900,000 from the 7th century till the early 1900s. It even dropped somewhat from the early 18th to the 20th centuries due to low productivity. But with the population approaching 2 million today, the trend of the past has been forgotten.

Confucius Statue Restored in Qufu

A newly restored statue of Confucius (551-479 B.C.) was unveiled in his hometown of Qufu in Shandong Province at the end of September to mark the great philosopher's 2,535th birthday.

The statue, 3.3 metres high, shows Confucius in a serious mood, lecturing his students. Another 16 sculptures of leading



The newly restored Confucius statue.

Confucian scholars, mostly his disciples, were unveiled at the same time.

A great thinker, philosopher and educator, Confucius was the founder of a school of thought which influenced all of Chinese society for 2,500 years.

During the 10 chaotic years from 1966 to 1976, Confucian ideas were totally rejected by the ultra-Leftists in power. A special campaign to criticize Confucius in 1974 labelled his theories as the root cause of all supposedly reactionary ideas. Many revolutionary cadres and intellectuals were labelled successors to Confucius and removed from their posts, as part of a plan to usurp the Party's leadership. Amidst the chaos, the original statues of Confucius and his disciples in the Confucian Temple in Qufu were all damaged.

The repair work began in February 1983 and was finished last August. The entire restoration cost 480,000 yuan and used 1,500 grams (about 53 ounces) of gold.

To celebrate Confucius' birthday, a five-day conference was held in Oufu to evaluate his ideas on education. At the same time, the Confucius Fund was set up to collect money for a Confucian research centre and a museum. They will compile, study and publish documents and materials on Confucius, protect and repair related historical sites and relics and reward scholars who have made special contributions to the study of Confucius. The Confucius Fund welcomes support from all admirers of the sage at home and abroad.

Society Honouring Three US Reporters

The Smedley-Strong-Snow Society of China was launched in Beijing on September 20 to salute three American journalists who were pioneers in building bridges of understanding between a new China and the rest of the world.

In a letter of congratulations, Deng Yingchao, who chairs the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said the three Americans, Agnes Smedley, Anna Louise Strong and Edgar Snow, had made invaluable contributions to the Chinese people and their revolution.

Deng, a close friend of the three journalists who came to China in the 1920s or 1930s and who have all since died, is the society's honorary president.

Huang Hua, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, addressed the inaugural meeting as president of the society.

The victory of the Chinese revolution, he said, was inseparable from the untiring work and wide publicity done by many foreign journalists who upheld truth and justice and dedicated themselves to

the revolutionary cause of the Chinese people.

He recalled how the three Americans presented to the world "a true picture of the Chinese people's liberation struggle," in defiance of the Kuomintang blockade, and continued to write about China's progresses in socialist construction after the victory of the revolution. The three, he said, "were worthy representatives of their generation of journalists."

Huang continued, "Smedley, Strong and Snow were not only famous reporters and editors, but also excellent writers, critics, social activists and people's ambassadors for peace and friendship."

Two of the three Americans, Smedley and Strong, finally chose to stay and died in China. Edgar Snow, who played an important role in the normalization of Sino-American relations, had some of his ashes buried on the campus of Beijing University — where he used to teach — according to his own will. He died in Switzerland.

China has translated into Chinese and published a number of the three journalists' works, including *Daughter of the Earth*, and *Great Road* by Smedley, *Red Star Over China* and *The Long Revolution* by Snow, and *Chinese Conquered China* and *Why I Came to China at the Age of 72* by Strong.

The new society will conduct more systematic research into their lives and have more of their works translated and published, in order to promote their spirit of defying hardship in dedication to the truth. The society's immediate task is to collect materials in China and abroad of scholarly value in order to set up a library in what is called the "SSS Studies" and prepare for a symposium to be attended by scholars at home and abroad. A five-volume collection of Snow's works will also be published.

The society is composed of more

than 100 scholars, journalists, writers, experts and artists who either knew the three personally or have been studying their works.

Chinese Explorers Head to Antarctica

China will send its first exploration and research team to Antarctica and sea areas within Antarctic Circle from Nov. 20 to next spring. The team will set up a Chinese summer station on the "white continent."

When China started its South Pole survey in January 1980, two Chinese scientists travelled to the world's southernmost land. In the more than four years since, 32 Chinese researchers have carried out field surveys in co-operation with counterparts from Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina and Japan. They have recorded some achievements. But now China is about to embark on its very own research station.

Under the leadership of the National Committee for Antarctica Research and the State Oceanography Bureau, more than 100 would-be explorers will organize their groups themselves. Relying mainly on their own equipment, they will embark on independent, large-scale explorations involving various research disciplines.

The Antarctic group will study maritime hydrography, meteorology, geology, biology, chemistry and geophysics. With the establishment of the station, China becomes the 17th country to explore the frozen world.

Over the last few years, the National Committee for Antarctica Research has developed ties with related institutes from many countries. Committee members have attended meetings sponsored by the International Antarctic Committee and the Antarctic Treaty Organization.

Korea

Relief From the North to the South

by REN YAN

THE military demarcation line dividing north and south Korea was broken for the first time on Sept. 29, but it was broken in the spirit of co-operation rather than confrontation.

Trucks rolling south across the demilitarized zone at Panmunjom were delivering relief goods donated by the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to flood victims in south Korea. At the same time, relief goods deliveries were also being made by ships along the coast of the divided Korean Peninsula.

Heavy flooding in August resulted in the death of more than 200 people and caused massive damage in south Korea. The DPRK Red Cross Society offered to deliver relief supplies to the flood victims on Sept. 8, and the south Korean Red Cross Society opted to accept the help on Sept. 14. It took an additional 11 days of negotiations before the two sides agreed on a delivery route and method of transfer.

The delivery of relief goods to south Korea is the first of its kind in the nearly 40 years of national division. People hope the event will promote further collaboration and exchanges between the north and south.

The offer of relief goods included about 7,500 tons of rice, 500,000 metres of cloth, 100,000 tons of cement and medical supplies. The

delivery of the relief goods indicates that people in the northern part of Korea have warm patriotic feelings for the south Koreans.

The divided Korean nation has struggled for nearly a century to gain independence and liberation. It suffered from Japanese colonial oppression for more than 50 years and has endured division for another 39 years. Negotiations between the north and south have been held many times, but no positive results have been reaped.

Jordan-Egypt

Diplomatic Ties Resumed

by YU MINGBO

LAST month's resumption of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Egypt, which were severed five years ago, should promote Middle East peace negotiations and the development of relations between Egypt and other Arab countries.

A statement by the Jordanian foreign ministry said that Jordan appreciates Egypt's policies on Arab issues under the leadership of President Hosni Mubarak, and exclusion of Egypt from the Arab League can only be harmful to the Arab cause.

Egypt, said Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali at a press conference, welcomes the positive step. Egypt

A press communique from the Korean Central News Agency noted that "the Red Cross organizations of north and south Korea created a good precedent in the way of collaboration, unity and reunification by understanding and co-operating with each other in the spirit of compatriotism and humanitarianism."

In a speech released by the Korean Central News Agency on Oct. 3, Son Song Pil, a north Korean Red Cross official, said he hopes that the national bonds between the north and south will be strengthened and misunderstanding and distrust dispelled so as to create a favourable climate for a peaceful reunification of the country.

hopes that the September 25 restoration of full relations between the two countries will open a new chapter for Arab unity and be a step towards the fulfilment of legitimate rights for the Palestinian people, Ghali said.

Officials in Jordan and Egypt felt the restoration of ties was not only a big event in the relations between the two countries, but will also influence relations between Egypt and the rest of Arab world, as well as the situation in the Middle East.

Jordan, along with other Arab countries, severed its diplomatic relations with Egypt after the latter signed the Camp David accords with Israel in 1979. Egypt was isolated from the rest of Arab world. But during recent years, especially since Mubarak took

office, Egypt adopted a conciliatory attitude towards the Arab world, and relations improved. The relations between Cairo and Amman apparently warmed up faster than others. This led Jordan to finally decide to restore relations with Egypt ahead of other Arab countries.

At the beginning of last year, President Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan held discussions for the first time on the Palestinian question and the Iran-Iraq war during the non-aligned nations summit meeting in New Delhi. After the talks, King Hussein said the links between Jordan and Egypt were close, despite the lack of formal diplomatic ties. Relations between Egypt and other Arab countries would be soon resumed, the king predicted. Mubarak said the two countries shared common views on the Arab issues.

The two leaders met again in the United States and discussed Middle East peace prospects last February. Mubarak noted that Jordan can play an important role in Middle East peace talks and he supported dialogue between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation

Organization (PLO). After that meeting, Mubarak and Hussein exchanged letters frequently, and visits between Egyptian and Jordanian officials increased.

Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, also contributed to the restoration of ties between Jordan and Egypt, according to observers in Cairo. When Arafat pulled out of Lebanon November last year, he unexpectedly met with Mubarak in Cairo—an action that shocked the Arab world. Afterwards, Arafat urged other Arab countries to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt.

Jordanian government officials said they made the decision to resume ties because Egypt adopted a positive stand on the issues of Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq. Egyptian spokesmen pointed out that future Middle East talks will be attended by both Jordan and Palestine. Placing Jordan in the talks is a boost to Jordan. Egypt holds that the key to solving the Middle East problem is a just settlement of the Palestinian question while retaining the unity of the whole Arab world. Jordan endorsed Egypt's statements.

asking in the wake of the Reagan-Gromyko meeting. So far, both sides have shunned giving a clear-cut answer in their public statements.

Reagan, in a televised speech the day after the meeting, stressed the importance of Washington-Moscow dialogue in finding solutions to conflicts around the world.

Reagan said that he and Gromyko did not ignore their differences, adding that the Soviet past behaviour had disturbed the United States and its allies.

But, the US president said, the Kremlin knows it can gain nothing from its rigid approach. Reagan offered that if the Kremlin chooses to step forward sincerely to help solve outstanding problems facing the two countries, the United States will certainly do the same.

In his Sept. 29 statement to the Soviet news agency TASS, Gromyko said that his talks with Reagan "do not, unfortunately, make it possible to draw a conclusion about practical and positive changes in the foreign-policy course of the US administration."

Gromyko went on to say, "It is not seen whether the US administration is ready to take a realistic stand on the substance of the acute problems of war and peace."

The Soviet Foreign Minister made it clear that Moscow will continue to judge the real intentions of the US administration by its deeds and that only future actions can show whether Washington is going to correct its policies.

Actually, few observers are surprised by the absence of any substantive progress in the top-level Soviet-American session. It is clear from the stands taken by Washington and Moscow that the two sides have adopted a wait-and-see attitude. Reversing the confrontation between the two superpowers is a complex and dif-

US-USSR

After Reagan and Gromyko Parley

by WANG CHONGJIE

THE three-and-a-half-hour talks between US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko at the White House on Sept. 28 constituted the first top-level US-Soviet parley since Reagan took office in January of 1981.

But while the visit did at least put the two leaders in the same room for once, it did not produce

any breakthroughs on substantive issues or produce any concrete results.

Following the Reagan-Gromyko session, the Soviet Foreign Minister met with US Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington. And Shultz, after seeing Gromyko off, told reporters that they "had substantive discussions." And they agreed to keep in touch.

How will the chilly US-Soviet relations develop from now on? This is the question many are

ficult process. Reagan cannot be expected to make dramatic changes in his policy towards the Soviet Union shortly before the election. And Moscow is even less likely to make substantive concessions unless it receives equal concessions in return.

Washington and Moscow both had good reasons for holding the meeting. Reagan clearly hoped that the move could help his re-election campaign and break the ice for future dealings with Moscow.

The Kremlin, believing another term for Reagan is very likely, felt that it had nothing to lose in making face-to-face contact with the US President. Gromyko hoped to feel Reagan out, and even exert some influence, if not pressure, on

him. Such influence would leave the Soviets greater room for future moves to warm up the bilateral relations.

It is perhaps these considerations that induced the two leaders to agree that representatives from their countries will meet again when the need arises.

In any case, contacts and talks are better than unending confrontation. But what is more important is whether the two superpowers have the desire and will to limit, reduce or completely eliminate their nuclear arsenals, to end in earnest their global confrontation and respect independence and sovereignty of other countries.

This remains to be seen.

flict, using the proposed Israeli withdrawal to endow the forgotten Reagan peace plan with new force. Murphy's talks were designed to prepare the path for a new US Mideast diplomatic offensive after the November election.

Recent changes in the Middle East shed light on the US decision to resume shuttle diplomacy:

- Israel now has a coalition government headed by Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, who holds a flexible attitude towards Reagan's peace plan. Though the new government is formed by the evenly matched Labour Party and the Likud bloc and may have difficulty making major decisions, it is at least different from the government when the power was solely in the hands of the Likud bloc. The changes has inspired the Reagan administration to seek common language with the new regime in Tel Aviv.

- Due to pressure from internal economic woes and rising opposition from Lebanon, Israel has to be more flexible on the question of pulling out of Lebanon. Israel no longer insists on a simultaneous withdrawal by Syrian troops and Israeli leaders now hope that Washington can mediate an arrangement with Syria to ensure the security of Israel's northern border. If an Israeli pullout is realized, it will improve relations between Arab nations and Israel, especially relations between Egypt and Israel. Such an improvement is indispensable to the Mideast peace process.

- Relations between Lebanon and Syria have improved since Lebanon began tilting towards Syria in its foreign policy. Syria is in no position to go against an Israeli-Lebanese pact that would result in getting Israeli troops out of Lebanon.

- In the past six months, the Soviet Union has hastened to fill the void in the Middle East that resulted from US setbacks. The

Middle East

US Resumes Shuttle Diplomacy

by YU KAIYUAN

LAST month's whirlwind tour of the Middle East by Richard Murphy, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs, conveyed a simple message: After a seven-month's absence, the United States is once again ready to take diplomatic action in the region.

In the three years before the pull-out of US marines from Lebanon last February, US special envoys shuttled around the Middle East in almost non-stop fashion. Then, after the US marines were forced to leave Beirut, the diplomats also left the stage quietly. Murphy's Sept. 21-29 trip to Lebanon, Syria, Israel, Egypt and Jordan was the first sign that US shuttle diplomacy may resume. His Middle East activities were closely watched all around the world.

Murphy's public mandate from

the US State Department was to investigate the Sept. 20 car bombing of a US embassy building in the suburbs of East Beirut. The bombing killed eight embassy employees and wounded 35.

But Murphy's trip was not limited to investigating the bombing. On Sept. 23, US Secretary of State George Shultz said that if all parties concerned in Middle East are willing to make new diplomatic efforts, the United States intends to push Israel to withdraw its troops. The next day, in his United Nations General Assembly speech, US President Ronald Reagan reiterated his Mideast peace plan of Sept. 1, 1982, calling it a basis for realizing justice and peace in the region. Murphy's visit constitutes the first step in the resumed diplomatic effort announced by Shultz.

Murphy's task in his nine-day tour was to explore opinions from all sides in the Arab-Israeli con-

Soviet ambassador returned to Cairo after three years' leave. Soviet military advisors and advanced military hardware have already appeared on Gulf oilfields. Diplomats from Moscow took the place of the US envoys, and a Soviet proposal to convene an international conference has received support from almost all Arab countries. As a silent onlooker, the Americans are not enjoying the Soviet diplomatic show. So if the opportunity to launch a diplomatic counter-attack comes, Washington will not let it pass.

• While Murphy was in the Egyptian and Jordanian capitals,

the two countries resumed diplomatic relations after a five-year suspension. Washington welcomed the resumed ties, which may assist in setting up talks on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In all these changes, a crucial factor must be taken into account of by Washington, that is, the United States must respect the national rights of the 4 million Palestinians. If Washington continues to ignore this factor in its Middle East policy, the resumed US diplomatic offensive will achieve nothing.

To avoid possible retaliation from Iran, the GCC countries have assured Iranian officials that the GCC defence plan is not intended to form a military bloc directed at any one country.

As GCC Secretary General Abdalla Yaccoub Bishara put it, "The Iran-Iraq war is not and will never be the only threat to the region." The military buildup of the Western powers and the Soviet Union in the region following the escalation of the tanker war in May also contributed to the GCC's growing anxieties and convinced the member nations of the need to strengthen their self-defence capabilities.

The Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Rai al-Anim* made it plain in a recent editorial that the Gulf countries can ensure the security and independence of the region "only by their own efforts. Any intervention by foreign powers, including the United States, means disaster."

The GCC was founded by the six nations on May 25, 1981, on the principle of strength through unity. Since then, it has mediated various disputes in the Gulf and the Arab world and contributed to promoting Arab unity, as well as security and stability in the Gulf region.

In light of the tense situation in the region, the GCC will speed up military co-operation. Last October the six members held their first joint military exercises in the United Arab Emirates. Kuwaiti Defence Minister Salem al Sabah said that the GCC countries will hold their second joint military exercise in Saudi Arabia this month.

It is also reported that the GCC will hold its fifth summit in November in Kuwait to ratify the common defence document. Observers believe that the efforts to upgrade the Gulf nations' self-defence capabilities will prove successful and will contribute to the easing of tensions in the region.

GCC

Gulf Nations to Improve Defences

by TANG JIZAN and
LI HOUZHI

DEFENCE and foreign ministers of the Gulf-Co-operation Council (GCC) moved to upgrade their self-defence capabilities by agreeing last month to a joint defence and security pact at a two-day meeting in Abha, Saudi Arabia.

The defence strategy mapped out by the ministers of the six-nation council calls for joint air cover, air-borne early warning systems and a joint high command, as well as co-ordinated military tactics and unified weaponry sources to ensure the security of the region and safeguard independence against foreign intervention.

The first meeting of the GCC defence and foreign ministers was held on Sept. 18-19, in the wake of a flare-up in the Gulf tanker war, which has once again caused tension in the region. The GCC includes Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The Gulf shipping attacks, in which some 50 oil tankers or vessels have been hit, have posed a serious threat to the Gulf oil shipping lane. The shipping lane is not only vital to the West, but also to the Gulf countries themselves. Relying almost entirely on oil export revenue, the GCC countries fear that a full-scale escalation of the Gulf war might cripple their economies.

As they seek alternate oil export channels such as the Red Sea, the series of explosions which have hit 19 ships there has also increased the fears of the six Gulf nations.

The GCC's past efforts to seek a peaceful settlement to the Gulf conflict have not fared well. Iranian leader Imam Khomeini recently rejected any compromise with Iraq in the four-year-old war and continues to insist on the removal of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. With no end to the conflict in sight, the GCC countries decided to boost their self-defence capabilities to safeguard their interests.

Special Regions Leave Socialism Unchanged

The publication of the Sino-British joint declaration on the question of Hongkong (initialled text) has stirred up great interest from people at home and abroad in China's special administrative regions.

Why is it necessary to establish special administrative regions? Do they change the nature of the state? In these excerpts from an article published in "Renmin Ribao" (People's Daily) September 28, these and other points are explained. — Ed.

by **WANG SHUWEN**

THE 1982 Constitution of the People's Republic of China stipulates in Article 31 that "the state may establish special administrative regions when necessary." This stipulation was made in light of the situation in China and the concept of "one country, two systems."

This important constitutional principle clarifies China's basic approach to Taiwan and Hongkong. And it was in accordance with this principle that the Chinese Government declared in the Sino-British joint declaration on the question of Hongkong that the People's Republic of China shall, upon resuming the exercise of sovereignty over Hongkong on July 1, 1997, establish the Hongkong Special Administrative Region in order to maintain unification of the motherland and safeguard its territorial integrity while considering the historical background and the realities of Hongkong.

Integrating Principle and Flexibility

The stipulation on the special administrative regions embodies the integration of principle with flexibility, one of the fundamentals in enacting Chinese law

China is a big country with one billion people belonging to 56 ethnic groups. And the economics, politics and culture have been developing unevenly over this vast and diverse area. Therefore, the law must allow all localities to implement specific policies designed to deal with local conditions, while maintaining the fundamental principle of safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity, in order to bring out the initiative of localities under the unified leadership of the central authorities.

Peng Zhen, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Revision of the Constitution and now Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, explained how the special administrative regions embody the integration of principle and flexibility in his Report on the Draft of the Revised Constitution of the People's Republic of China. He said, "We are absolutely unequivocal on the principle of safeguarding China's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. At the same time, we are highly flexible as regards specific policies and measures and will give full consideration to the concrete situation in the Taiwan region and the wishes of the people in Taiwan and those of all personages concerned. This is our basic position in handling problems of a similar kind."

This basic stand also applies to Hongkong.

First of all, China must maintain the basic principle of safeguarding its sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity while establishing special administrative regions. The country must be unified and there is only one China—the People's Republic. China is a single-system socialist country, not a federal state. It will exercise sovereignty over the special administrative regions.

The National People's Congress is the highest organ of state power. The congress and its permanent body, the Standing Committee, exercise the legislative power of the state. The State Council, which is the Central People's Government, is the executive body of the highest organ of state power and is the highest organ of state administration.

The special administrative regions are local units under the unified leadership of the central authorities. They are not member-states of China. They must exercise power within the limits of authority prescribed by the law on the special administrative regions enacted by the National People's Congress.

At the same time, the special administrative regions can be highly flexible and enjoy a high degree of autonomy. Their local governments differ from those of other provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions and are invested with special powers.

For example, the Hongkong Special Administrative Region, according to the Sino-British joint declaration, will enjoy a high degree of autonomy except in foreign and

defence affairs, which are the responsibility of the Central People's Government. It will have executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication. The laws currently in force in Hongkong will remain basically unchanged.

The government of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region will be composed of local inhabitants. Its current social and economic systems will remain unchanged, as will the life-style. The Hongkong special region will retain its status as a free port, a separate customs territory, and an international financial centre. It may decide its monetary and financial policies on its own and establish mutually beneficial economic relations with various countries. Using the name "Hongkong, China," the Hongkong Special Administrative Region may maintain and develop economic and cultural relations and conclude agreements with states, regions and international organizations on its own. The region also is responsible for maintaining public order.

The different special administrative regions may carry out different specific policies and measures according to their local conditions, but enjoy the same high degree of autonomy.

The establishment of special administrative regions is a matter of importance in the life of our state. In the Constitution, two stipulations explain how to establish special administrative regions when they are necessary. These stipulations state: "The systems to be instituted in special administrative regions shall be prescribed by law enacted by the National People's Congress in the light of the specific conditions (Article 31)." "The National People's Congress has the power to decide on the establishment of special administrative regions and the systems to be instituted there (Article 62, No. 13) "

These stipulations show that only the highest organ of state power, the National People's Congress, has the power to establish special administrative regions and set up the system there. No other state units have this power. This will facilitate and guarantee the long-term, consistent implementation of the state's policies on special administrative regions and the stability and prosperity of the regions.

Nature of State Unchanged

The Constitution stipulates in Article 1 that the People's Republic of China is a socialist state under the people's democratic dictatorship, with the socialist system as its basic system. This stipulation is not in contradiction with that allowing the special administrative regions to retain their current capitalist system. For the good of the whole country, it is necessary to maintain the socialist system. But for some localities, it is better to let them keep their capitalist system within the special administrative regions.

This does not change the fact that China is a socialist country and will continue to develop socialism in the future. Although the special administrative regions are allowed to implement specific social policies and retain their current social and economic systems, this will not change the nature of the state.

This is not the first time China has tolerated different systems within the state. The 1954 Constitution listed four kinds of ownership of the means of production: ownership by the whole people, collective ownership by the workers, ownership by the individual labourers and ownership by capitalists. In fact, there were still other kinds of ownership in the areas inhabited by minority people, such as the ownership by primitive communes, slavery and ownership by feudal lords.

The present Constitution stipulates that socialist public ownership of the means of production is the foundation of the socialist economy. The Constitution also says the state must protect the lawful rights and interests of the individual economy and allow foreign firms, organizations and individuals to invest in China within the limits prescribed by law. But China must draw clear lines of demarcation between the general stipulations for the whole country and the special stipulations for localities, and between the nature of the socialist state and some social policies implemented by the state.

The National People's Congress will enact a basic law for the Hongkong Special Administrative Region and define special policies and systems, according to Article 31 of the Constitution. But the laws previously in force in Hongkong (common law, rules of equity, ordinances, subordinate legislation and customary law) will be maintained, except for those which directly contradict the basic law. Of course, those laws will also be subject to any amendment by the Hongkong Special Administrative Region legislature, after the establishment of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region.

The legislature of the Hongkong special region may, on its own authority, enact laws in accordance with the provisions of the basic law and standard legal procedures. The laws implemented in the Hongkong special region will not contradict the principle of upholding the uniformity and dignity of the socialist legal system, as stipulated by the Constitution.

The basic law concerning the special administrative regions as prescribed by the National People's Congress is enacted in accordance with Article 31 of the Constitution. Therefore, it conforms to the Constitution. □

Foreign Contacts of the Communist Party

The following is the full text of an interview with the head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee on the eve of the 35th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. —Ed.

Question: Since the founding of New China in 1949, especially since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in 1978, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has made extensive foreign contacts. Can you tell us something about this?

Answer: Today, the CPC has various forms of friendly ties with more than 150 parties and organizations in foreign countries, including Communist, socialist, social democratic and labour parties, and different kinds of political parties in the third world countries. Such extensive, multi-form foreign relationships by our Party have never been seen before. These activities are beneficial to defending world peace and promoting friendship between the peoples and to developing the progressive cause of human society.

Q: In what spirit and principle does the CPC develop its relations with these parties?

A: In accordance with the experience of and lessons learned by the international Communist movement in the past century or more, and in light of the practice of struggle of our Party and other parties, the Chinese Communist Party declared at its 12th National Congress in September 1982 that it "develops relations with other Communist or working-class parties in strict conformity with Marxism and the principles of independence, complete equality, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs."

That means our Party does not recognize any so-called leadership or guiding "centre," or any ready-made "model" in the international Communist movement. Neither at present nor in the future will our Party act as a "centre" or create a "model." We maintain that only in this way can a new type of relationship between parties be established, characterized by independence and equality as well as mutual support on a completely voluntary basis.

The above-mentioned four principles guiding our Party in handling its relations with Communist Parties of other countries are likewise applicable to its relations with socialist, social democratic and labour parties of various countries, and political parties of the third world countries.

These policies and principles of our Party have won appreciation and support from these parties.

Q: Recent years have seen efforts by the CPC to restore and develop friendly bilateral relations with Communist Parties of other countries that had been chilly and suspended for a while. Could you comment on this?

A: We have always maintained friendly relations with the Korean Workers' Party, the Communist Party of Romania and the Communist Parties of some other countries. For a time our Party's relations with Communist Parties in many countries were suspended. In handling relations with Communist Parties of other countries, we, generally speaking, adhered to the principle of independence, but there were also shortcomings and mistakes, for which our Party has openly criticized itself.

In the past few years, our Party has actively tried to resume and advance its once-suspended relations with other Communist Parties.

In August 1977, President Tito of Yugoslavia visited China. During the visit, leaders of the parties of the two countries, in the spirit of "looking ahead instead of trying to settle old accounts," made an important decision on restoring relations between the two parties. This had strong repercussions in the international Communist movement. Before and after this event, Communist Parties of many countries expressed their willingness to resume friendly relations with the Chinese Party. Through joint efforts, we have restored relations with a number of Communist Parties in Europe, Asia and Latin America, and established different forms of friendly ties with some other Communist Parties. And diversified contacts were made with satisfactory results. As a matter of fact, it is normal for parties of various countries to have different views and adopt different measures on some questions because of their different conditions and experiences. Parties with differing views should respect each other, seek common ground while reserving differences, and gradually iron out differences through friendly consultations and mutual forbearance, neither forcing the views of one on others, nor starting a quarrel or breaking relations as soon as differences arise. In this spirit, there will be no difficulties on the part of our Party in establishing, restoring and developing friendly relations with Communist Parties of various countries.

Q: Why does the Communist Party of China want to develop relations with socialist, social democratic and labour parties in other countries?

A: Some Chinese organizations maintained friendly relations with members of some socialist, social democratic and labour parties in the past. Now the Chinese Com-

Communist Party has established direct friendly contacts with them.

Socialist, social democratic and labour parties in many developed and developing countries stand on the side of safeguarding world peace and striving for social progress, and endeavour to develop friendly relations with the Chinese people. Our Party and these parties have identical or similar views on major current world issues, including opposition to the super-powers' nuclear arms race, seeking relaxation of international tension, promoting the North-South dialogue, and accelerating the development of the third world countries. This is the basis on which we carry out dialogues, exchanges and co-operation.

Admittedly, there are ideological differences between our Party and these parties, and we also have different views on certain international issues.

These differences, however, should not be allowed to hamper the development of bilateral friendly relations or prevent international co-operation. In May this year, Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, explicitly stated at a dinner in honour of Chairman Willy Brandt of the German Social Democratic Party that the Chinese Communist Party pursues the policy of "going beyond ideological differences and seeking mutual understanding and co-operation" in its contacts and exchanges with other countries' socialist, social democratic and labour parties.

Q: What do you mean by political parties of the third world countries? What is the significance of the Chinese Party developing its relations with them?

A: By expanding relations with various kinds of political parties in the third world countries, we mean that the Chinese Communist

Party is not only willing to expand relations with the Communist Parties of the third world countries but also desires to expand relations or make contacts with other kinds of parties (not all types of parties, of course), which are large in number in these countries. The Chinese Communist Party started its contacts with the latter as early as in 1978.

Our effort to develop friendly relations with these political parties and national liberation movement organizations conforms to the aspirations of both sides. It also benefits efforts towards attaining closer unity and reinforced co-operation between China and the third world countries and peoples in opposing imperialism, colonialism, racialism, expansionism and hegemonism, as well as towards defending world peace.

Q: How do you view differences between party-to-party and state-to-state relations?

A: They should and certainly can be differentiated. Party-to-party relations and state-to-state relations are different in nature and belong to separate categories. It is a common international phenomenon for political parties of various countries with certain common ideology or political views to contact each other. Contacts between Communist Parties of various countries are also a normal phenomenon, and this is a kind of moral relationship based on common ideals and ideology.

We maintain that a country's choice of social systems can be made and decided only by the people of that country themselves, and that relations between states must be handled by strictly adhering to the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence.

The Chinese Communist Party has repeatedly declared that it will never interfere in the internal af-

fairs of parties of other countries, nor will it take advantage of its relations with other parties to meddle in other countries' internal affairs.

Q: Mass movements in various countries have gained ground, the peace movement in particular. What is the attitude of the CPC towards this?

A: Our Party backs Chinese people's organizations in attending international activities. Through years of efforts, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, the Chinese youth organizations and the Chinese Women's Federation have restored or established relations respectively with 120 trade unions, 300 youth and student organizations and 160 women's organizations of various countries and regions. The Chinese societies or associations concerned have been in touch with the peace movement organizations in Japan, Britain, the United States, Italy, France and the Federal Republic of Germany and have been involved in some international peace movements. The CPC and Chinese mass organizations have voiced support for workers, youths and women in their struggle to win or defend their personal interests. They also support people of various countries in their struggle against the arms race and against nuclear war and to ease the international tense situation and defend world peace.

Q: Finally, we hope you will tell us about the future of the CPC's efforts to develop foreign ties.

A: Our efforts to develop foreign relations have had very good results. Now we really have friends all over the world. We will be able to make even more satisfactory achievements in the future if we can continue to follow the Party Central Committee's principles and policies concerning foreign affairs and further emancipate our mind and improve our work methods. □

United States Economic Focus Moves Eastward

While the Asian-Pacific region is rapidly expanding its global economic influence, the United States has gradually shifted its global interests from Western Europe to the East. The readjustment of US economic strategy will have far-reaching influence.

by YANG JIEFA

AFTER World War II, the United States, emboldened by its greatly increased economic and military strength, declared that its interests spread over the whole globe. It then began to consolidate these interests by expanding its economic influence.

US economic interest was focused on Latin America and Canada from the early postwar years to the 1950s. In the 1960s Western Europe became the focus of US economic activities. And since the mid-1970s, the United States has gradually shifted its emphasis to Asia and the Pacific.

Since the mid-1970s great changes have taken place in US foreign trade patterns, capital export and sources of important raw materials. The Asian-Pacific region is now replacing Western Europe as the centre of US global economic interests.

Asia and the Pacific have become the largest market for US foreign trade. From the end of World War II to 1975, Western Europe had held that position. In 1970, for example, 31.5 per cent of US foreign trade was with Western Europe, and 26.1 per cent was with Asia and the Pacific. But by 1982, 25.7 per cent of US trade was with Western Europe, while its Asian and Pacific trade rose to 34.8 per cent.

The United States is now planning to increase its trade with the Asian-Pacific region from the present US\$150 billion to US\$5,000 billion in 10 years. And although

direct private investment in Western Europe is still higher in absolute terms, the rate of US investment is growing much faster in the Asian-Pacific region than in Europe.

From 1975 to 1982 the gross volume of US direct private investment in the Asian-Pacific region rose from US\$5.95 billion to US\$28.5 billion, while the investment volume in Western Europe rose from US\$49.5 billion to US\$99.8 billion—a far less dramatic increase. In 1982, the net volume of US investment in the Asian-Pacific region reached US\$1.29 billion, almost equal to the US\$1.32 billion net investment in Western Europe, and that is not including US investment in China. US investors are clearly looking to the East.

One reason is that Asian and Pacific countries have much of the raw materials the United States must import to supply its booming electronics and aeronautics industries. Of the 11 minerals the United States imported in large quantities in 1978, eight came from Asia and the Pacific. Titanium from the East accounted for 97 per cent of the gross volume of US imports, along with 82 per cent of the tin, 80 per cent of the mica, 42 per cent of the tantalum and 27 per cent of the aluminium.

The Asian-Pacific region also supplies the United States with 88 per cent of its imported natural rubber, 99 per cent of its palm oil and 95 per cent of its coconut oil.

Japan has long been the United States' biggest trade partner in its growing business with the East,

while Australia takes the lion's share of direct US private investment. But in recent years, the United States has also been strengthening its economic ties with members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and rapidly expanding its business with south Korea, Taiwan and Hongkong.

Complex Causes

In fact, the shifting emphasis of US economic interests is far more economically, politically, and strategically complex than just the presence of raw materials.

The Asian-Pacific region's economic boom is an enormous attraction to American monopoly corporations. Since the 1970s, the unprecedented economic development of Asia and the Pacific has increased its influence in the world economy. Japan led the way in 1971, when it emerged as the third economic power after the United States and the Soviet Union. From 1970 to 1980, the average annual increase of Japan's gross national product (GNP) was 4.9 per cent, compared with 3.3 per cent in other developed countries. The proportion of its GNP in the world rose from 4.8 per cent in 1960 to 10.2 per cent in 1980.

South Korea, Hongkong and Singapore had already become important regional economic powers when they emerged on the world scene in the 1970s. Their average annual economic growth was over 8 per cent. Though the Western economic crises of recent years have slowed the pace somewhat, it remains high when compared

with Western countries. The year of 1983 marked the beginning of their economic recovery. South Korea's economy grew by 9.7 per cent, Hongkong's by 5.7 per cent and Singapore's by 7.5 per cent.

China, with its successful modernization programme and its open policies, is also exerting a growing economic influence in the world. Its gross industrial and agricultural output value grew at a rate of more than 7 per cent from 1981 to 1983.

Because the Asian-Pacific region enjoys the advantages of rapid economic development, its economic position is bound to improve still further. It is predicted that from 1970 to 2000, the Asian economy will continue to increase at a rate of 6.3 per cent, while that of the whole world averages only 4.8 per cent. For the same period, Asia's proportion of the global GNP will grow from 16 per cent to 23 per cent.

Western experts estimate that by the end of this century, the Asian-Pacific region's economic growth will exceed the world's average increase level, and the focus of international trade will shift from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The United States is experiencing its own shift in economic focus, from the East to the Southwest. From 1950 to 1980, the population in the East increased just 1.25 times, as against 1.6 times in the South and 2.14 times in the West. For the same period, the income of the Northeast grew only 7.4 times, in sharp contrast to the South's 12.8 times and the West's 13.27 times. The income of the South and West was only 40 per cent of the national income in 1975, but it climbed to more than 50 per cent in 1980.

The population and economic shift has naturally increased the political influence of the South-

west: Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, two California politicians who became presidents, are good examples. And as America looks westward across the ocean, it eventually comes to the Asian-Pacific region. In California, two-thirds of the foreign trade is in the Asian-Pacific market. Business people and politicians in the Southwest are therefore pushing the US Government to pay more attention to the region.

The relatively stagnant economies of all the Western European countries have also speeded up the eastward shift of US economic interests. Between the 50s and 60s, Western Europe was the fastest-growing region in the world. But its growth has slowed since the mid-70s.

From 1960 to 1973, the GNP of the European Economic Community (EEC) increased by an average of 4.7 per cent a year, while from 1974 to 1981, it went up by just 1.9 per cent annually, and 1981 actually saw a decline of 0.4 per cent. Economists predict that by the year 2000, the EEC's share of the global GNP, which was 20 per cent in 1970, will drop to 15 per cent.

There are many reasons for Western Europe's economic stagnation. A major one is high labour costs. The average wage in the manufacturing industry in the Federal Republic of Germany was US\$10.43 an hour in 1982, which was already close to the US wage of US\$11.79. But in the same year the average wage in the Japanese manufacturing industry was half the American rate; in ASEAN nations it was one-fourth, and in south Korea, one-ninth.

As a result, American manufacturers producing abroad earn much higher profits in the Asian-Pacific region than they do in Western Europe. In 1981, the average profit rate for US private investment in Asia and the Pacific was 22.2

per cent, almost double that in Western Europe.

Other areas where labour costs are relatively low — the Middle East and Africa, for instance — do not offer the political stability of the Far East. The serious debt crisis in Latin America has also deterred investment there.

American monopolists have also been investing heavily in Asia and the Pacific in an attempt to regain the economic hegemony they held there through the 1960s. For more than 20 years after World War II, the United States controlled the Asian-Pacific economy. Japan, south Korea and ASEAN nations could only rely on US capital.

But since the end of the 60s, American economic strength has declined, while Japan and other newly industrialized countries in the Asian-Pacific region have emerged. The United States lost its power to dominate the Asian-Pacific economy, and Japan became the new giant.

From 1961 to 1981, the American share of the import total of the Asian and Pacific countries (not including Japan) rose from 12.9 per cent to 18.1 per cent, while the Japanese share grew from 12 per cent to 25 per cent. In 1966, private American investors had US\$370 million tied up in the ASEAN nations — more than twice the total of Japanese investment in the area. By 1981, the situation was reversed; Japanese investment stood at US\$9.81 billion, which was 1.5 times the American investment.

By increasing direct private investment and expanding trade and exports, US monopolists have tried to enhance their competitive power and regain their lost market in Asia and the Pacific.

The US Government also wants to strengthen its military position in the Asian-Pacific region through economic means. Since the late

60s, the Soviet Union has expanded its military forces in the area. This is a direct threat to American military, political and economic interests. But the US Government believes Soviet influence cannot be limited by military force alone, and has been using economic measures as well. By strengthening economic ties with the Asian-Pacific region, mutual dependence is strengthened and common economic interests can be formed, so that responses to the Soviet Union's threats can be made together.

In short, that American capitalists have been aggressively expanding their interests in the region represents a major readjustment of US economic strategy, made to keep pace with the changing international economic pattern.

Impact

The shifting of economic focus has inevitably influenced US policies towards the Asian-Pacific region. Since assuming power, the Reagan administration has repeatedly declared that the United States is a Pacific country and must take a more active role in the region. The old policy of withdrawing from the area has been completely reversed. Instead, in order to protect its economic interests, the United States has been doing all it can to promote prosperity in Asia and the Pacific.

This has entailed an overall policy readjustment. First, it has vigorously strengthened its military presence in the region, in part to counter similar Soviet expansion aimed at weakening US military, political and economic ties with Asia.

The United States is determined not to let the Soviet Union gain the military upperhand in the region, and has beefed up its troops to 150,000 soldiers. The US Seventh Fleet has also been reinforced with more nuclear aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines

equipped with cruise missiles. The US tactical air force in Japan and south Korea has been strengthened, and Washington is prepared to deploy nuclear forces there. More military bases have been built, and older ones revamped.

Mutual defense arrangements between the United States and Japan and south Korea have been extended, and ASEAN is receiving more US military aid. The United States has also supplied Thailand with F-16 jet fighters and is becoming more active in the Australia, New Zealand, US (ANZUS) alliance.

The second aspect of the overall policy readjustment is to better co-ordinate and enhance economic relations. The United States believes the key to the security and stability of the Asian-Pacific region is steady economic development.

Because they are in the best interests of the United States, the Reagan administration has recently agreed to several economic co-operation measures. It will soften its trade restrictions and reduce friction so as to expand bilateral trade, and quicken the pace of technological transfer on condition that US security interests are safeguarded. Consultations are now going on for investment agreements, to avoid double taxation and to increase direct private investment. The United States has increased its economic aid to developing countries, encouraged financial co-operation and given certain preferences to trade and investment. It signed a memorandum of understanding with the tin-producing ASEAN nations, and has provided the Philippines with some compensation for its foreign debt to help ease the economic crisis there.

The third aspect has been a flurry of diplomatic activity centred around the US-Japanese alliance. Since taking office, President Reagan has been working

through diplomatic channels to co-ordinate US strategic and economic interests. The President himself visited Japan last November.

There are several reasons why US efforts are focused on Japan. Japan is the centre of the Asian economy, while the United States is economically the strongest country in the world. Together, their economies account for half of all the Western world, giving them common interests and responsibilities to keep the world economy in order. They are becoming increasingly dependent on each other, and have the largest bilateral trade volume of any two nations in the world. In addition, the US-Japan Security Treaty is the axis of US military strategy in the Asian-Pacific region. Their security is closely related.

Recognizing that it no longer monopolizes the region, the United States must win the support and co-operation of Japan in order to further its interests.

The United States has also been enhancing its diplomatic relations with south Korea, the ASEAN nations, Australia and New Zealand.

This well-co-ordinated diplomatic, military and economic co-operation with the Asian and Pacific countries, centred on Japan, forms a buffer against the Soviet Union and gives the United States the edge in the battle for regional and even global hegemony.

The United States has therefore pressed the concept of a Pacific Economic Community (PEC). Actually, the proposal originally came from Japan, and was ignored by the United States at first. But interest grew as the United States began readjusting its Asian policy. Since 1979, many US research institutions have published papers and sponsored forums on the subject.

The Reagan administration has listed the establishment of a PEC

as one of its major diplomatic tasks for the 80s. The community will safeguard US interests in several ways.

Because US economic domination has been challenged by Japan, it risks being elbowed out of regional affairs unless it can take an active role in the PEC. Using political and military wedges, the United States is trying to hold back Japan by supporting the ASEAN nations, who still have misgivings about Japan stemming from World War II.

The Reagan administration also believes an economic community in the Pacific will cement its strategic position. It will link US-Japanese economic relations, the political, diplomatic and economic relations it has with the developing countries and US strategic interests in East Asia and the Pacific region.

The community will ensure and enlarge US economic influence in the region, becoming the main medium through which that influence is exerted.

Accordingly, the United States has several aims for the PEC. It should act as a safety valve, coordinating economic relations between its members. It should encourage investment and aid to developing countries in the region, and improve their relations with the developed countries. It should provide a forum through which to draw up a long-term programme for regional economic readjustment. And on a broader level, it should provide a strong foundation for economic alliance among the Asian-Pacific countries.

It is clear the United States hopes to pull Asia and the Pacific into its orbit by manipulating the PEC. By using it to control the progress of regional economic development, US economic interests in the area will be effectively protected and free to expand. □

★ 1949-1984
ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

Changes in a Coastal City

by **WANG DONGHAI**
"Beijing Review" Art Editor

According to legend, during the Qin Dynasty (221-206 B.C.) Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor who unified China, was so desperate to acquire an elixir that he sent his envoys to sea to ask a celestial being. Although their attempt failed, the place where the emperor came to and where the envoys were sent off was still named to record the episode — Qinhuangdao, or Qin Shi Huang Island.

Situated in the northeastern part of Hebei Province, this small city faces the Bohai Gulf, with its back to the Yanshan Mountains.

I was born and grew up in Qinhuangdao.

In early 1984, during the traditional Spring Festival, I returned

to my hometown. People all over the city were lighting firecrackers and beating drums and gongs. Dragon dancers and performers on stilts snaked through streets crowded with workers, housewives, students and peasants from the city and suburbs. They were all intoxicated with the spirit of the festival. I had not been home for Spring Festival in many years, and was deeply moved by my return.

"Black Faces"

In the old days, Qinhuangdao was a sleepy little village by the sea. In 1898, under the Qing Dynasty government, two docks were built to transport coal from nearby Tangshan's Kailuan coal mines, and the village began its first commercial venture. The retail and service trades quickly followed.

A workshop at the Yaohua Glass Factory



Now, most of the people in the port city are dockworkers. Before liberation they were known by the derogative "black faces," because they were always covered with the dust from the coal they loaded and unloaded.

The majority of dockworkers were very poor. After 12 hours of hard work they barely had enough for three meals.

Every day they risked their lives carrying 150 kilos of coal in a basket on their shoulders across a narrow wooden plank from the shore to the ship. If their work slackened in any way they were shouted at or beaten. Others lost their jobs, and sank into an even more hopeless poverty.

Most dockworkers were so poor that they never married. More than 100 men usually lived in one big room. Their living quarters were really a filthy, ramshackle slum, full of unsafe houses.

When I was a boy I had a schoolmate named You Hongye whose family rented a small and dark house. You's stepfather had married his mother, a widow, when he was 42 years old. Al-

though he worked hard on the dock loading and unloading coal, the family ate steamed cornbread, dressed in worn-out clothes and slept on a mat all year round. Finally, the long years of overwork under poor conditions left You's father with pulmonary emphysema. My schoolmate had to give up his classes and go to work.

New Masters

In 1949, the founding of New China made "black faces" like You's father the masters of the country. Many of the single men finally married and moved into new houses built by the Qinhuangdao Port Office.

Thirty-five years have passed since liberation. Most of the old dockworkers are spending their later years in happy retirement. Those with no offspring are well looked after in retirement homes.

You's father received proper medical treatment from doctors sent by the local government, and finally regained his health. Now 79, he lives on a retirement pension he gets from the state, and

does volunteer work for his neighbourhood committee.

New China also offered my friend a chance to go to college. After graduating, he returned to his hometown. Now You is deputy director of a branch of the Yao-hua Glass Factory in Qinhuangdao. His wife is a chief surgeon at a local hospital, and he has three children, all in school.

When I visited You, his family were sitting around a table making meat and vegetable dumplings. They have a neat three-room apartment. In China a factory director earns a wage more or less the same as a skilled worker. With three children to support, You is certainly not rich. But he does have a black-and-white television set and a washing machine.

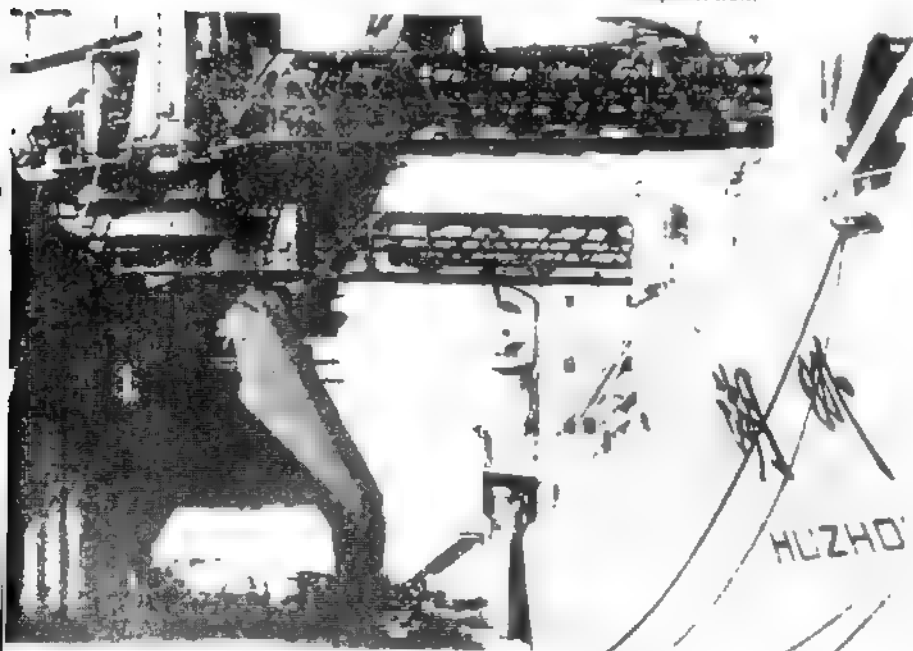
I remembered going with You and the other boys I knew to the old bathhouse—the only one in the Port Office. It was little more than a pond of warm water, which was so dirty no one really emerged from it clean. Now, You told me, four large, well-equipped bath houses have been set up, and many work areas have smaller facilities for showering.

The Port Office now has a hospital with a staff of more than 200, two large workers' clubs and a well-stocked library. Workers are also encouraged to continue their education in spare-time vocational schools, TV university and evening colleges.

Qinhuangdao's two docks have grown into 19 berths, employing 15,000 people. The port can handle 33 million tons of cargo a year as against 0.7 million tons in pre-liberation days, making it the third largest in China. About 80 per cent of the coal China exports passes through Qinhuangdao.

A new project has begun directing and supervising the work on the coal docks using a television screen in a control centre. When the second phase of the plan is

A newly built berth handles coal transportation.



completed, computers will be used to handle the movement of cargo.

Success Stories

Another industrial success story is the glass factory where my friend You works. It was founded in 1921, and by 1949, when the nation was on the verge of liberation, the factory was on the verge of bankruptcy.

But post-liberation renovation and technological transformation breathed new life into the Yaohua Glass Factory, the biggest of its kind in China now. In 1983 it produced 4 million standard crates of plate glass. Although it already provides 70 per cent of all the export glass made in China, a key construction project on You's branch factory will double output when it is completed.

Before liberation, Qinhuangdao garrisoned seven foreign armies. After they left, I remember playing with my friends on the deserted grounds and digging up bullets and spent shells. Once a grenade left behind by the soldiers exploded and injured a child's hand.

Today, where those old buildings stood, there is a large tractor fittings factory, a sandy beach and a modern sports training centre where groups of athletes come for instruction.

The sleepy little village of Qinhuangdao has grown into a city, with three districts (the harbour, Beidaihe and Shanhaiguan) and four local counties under its jurisdiction.

Its total industrial output value, a mere 10 million yuan on the eve of liberation, was 887 million yuan in 1983. It has 700 businesses engaged in 15 trades, including building materials, light industry, electronics, food processing, plastics and ship and bridge building. The city also has a complete textile production system, with spinning,



A bird's eye view of Yansai Lake.

weaving, dyeing and finishing factories.

In addition to sea transportation, Qinhuangdao is connected with the rest of China by the Beijing-Shenyang Railway and the Beijing-Qinhuangdao electrified line. Another electrified line to connect it with Datong in Shanxi Province is under construction.

The city and its environs also attract many tourists. The seaside resort of Beidaihe is a pleasant respite from the hot summers of Beijing. In Shanhaiguan the eastern end of the Great Wall slopes down into Bohai Bay. Yansai Lake, a man-made lake encircled by a dam stretching 15 kilometres down the Yanshan Mountain valley, has just been developed as a tourist centre. It rivals the beauty of any scenic spot in China.

Looking Towards Tomorrow

I went back to my hometown again last August. My mother was praising Gu Erxiong, the new acting mayor, for solving a shortage of honeycomb coal briquets just a few days after he took office. Gu was my middle school classmate, so I decided to look him up.

Because the central authorities had recently decided to open 14 more coastal cities, including Qinhuangdao, to foreign investors, naturally Gu was excited to tell me about the plans.

The city will set aside five square kilometres north of the harbour district as an economic and technological development zone. Preferential treatment policies like those practised in the special economic zones will be implemented there.

A tourist area will also be developed near the Beidaihe beach. Transportation, water, power and telecommunications facilities are already being prepared.

Gu told me city authorities had recently met with business people and economists from Japan, the United States, Britain, Belgium and Hongkong, and had signed more than 30 agreements to build projects using foreign loans. They also signed 50 agreements with various domestic companies.

Qinhuangdao has thus made its successful debut on the international stage. I believe my hometown will be even more beautiful and prosperous on my next visit. □

Safeguarding Women's Rights

by **ZHANG ZHIYE**
Our Correspondent

WOMEN'S rights—sought today by women all around the world—have been protected under Chinese law since the founding of New China in 1949.

And while Chinese women in 1984 have not overcome all the obstacles to equality, they are able to look to the Constitution of the People's Republic and a series of women's rights laws for help in their battles.

Legal protection for women was secured in the early days of the People's Republic. The Common Programme formulated in 1949 as a temporary constitution stipulated: "Women shall enjoy equal rights with men in political, economic, cultural, educational and other spheres of social life." China's first Constitution drawn up in 1954 also clearly stipulated that women enjoy equal rights with men and that marriage, the family and mother and child are protected by the state.

Since then, these legal stipulations have been put into practice all over China and the political, economic and social status of women has greatly improved. But in many ways China is still an economically and culturally backward country, and the influence of the feudal concept that man is superior to woman, which dominated for several thousand years, has not been eliminated.

This is manifested in the following aspects:

- Discrimination against and maltreatment of women still exists.

and the concept of regarding men as superior to women is quite deep-rooted.

- Women are still discriminated against in obtaining jobs and education and in work assignments;

- In some places (particularly in the rural areas) parents still interfere in their children's freedom of marriage and exact money and gifts in connection with marriage. This has given many young people, particularly the women, much pain. Some even committed suicide;

- Cases of abuse and rape occur now and then.

The existence of such problems has been brought to the attention of the Party and state. Last year, at a discussion about women's work, the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee stressed that resolute actions should be taken to fight against discrimination, abuse and harassment of women and children. The Secretariat urged the use of legal weapons to support and aid women who have been persecuted and the development of legal consulting services to women.

In recent years, while pooling efforts to strengthen the construction of China's legal system, the state has regarded safeguarding women's rights as a top concern.

Women's Rights Under Law

All four constitutions formulated since the founding of New China have stipulations about ensuring women's equal rights with men and the protection of marriage, family, mother and child.

The Constitution adopted in

1982 is the most comprehensive and explicit. Article 48 stipulates that women in the People's Republic of China enjoy equal rights with men in all spheres of life: political, economic, cultural and social, including family life. It also stipulates that the state protects the rights and interests of women, applies the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women alike, and trains and selects cadres from among women.

According to these stipulations, women, like men, enjoy a wide range of rights. In political life, for instance, they enjoy the right to vote and stand for election and participate in state management. Economically, they enjoy the right to work and rest and inherit property. In cultural life, they have the freedom to receive education and study. In social life, they have the freedom to participate in social activities and adopt their own family names, and their children may adopt either the father's or the mother's family name. In family life, the husband and wife enjoy equal rights in the management of joint property.

The Marriage Law of the People's Republic stipulates that China's marriage system is based on the free choice of partners, on monogamy and on equal rights for the sexes. Marriage upon arbitrary decision by any third party, mercenary marriage and other acts of interference in the freedom of marriage are prohibited. It also prohibits demands of money or gifts in connection with marriage, bigamy, maltreatment and desertion.

In addition, the Marriage Law

stipulates that according to the agreed wishes of the two parties, the man may become a member of the woman's family.

Special Needs Considered

Women's special needs have been taken into consideration by China's lawmakers.

For instance, given that a woman's physical and mental burdens increase during pregnancy and the post-natal period, the Marriage Law stipulates that in most cases the husband is not allowed to apply for a divorce when his wife is pregnant or within one year after the birth of a child. An exception is made in the case of the wife applying for divorce, or when the people's court deems it absolutely necessary to agree to deal with a divorce application by the husband.

Following a divorce, if agreement cannot be reached for the disposal of the property jointly owned by the husband and wife, the law calls for the people's court to make a judgment by taking into consideration the actual state of the family property and the rights and interests of the wife and the children.

The law also stipulates, "In case of divorce, if one party has maintenance difficulties, the other party should render appropriate financial assistance." In most cases, the wife is benefited.

In addition, in accordance with the special needs of women, China's laws and stipulations on labour protection stipulate that women shall receive protection during menstruation, pregnancy and nursing.

Enforcement of Criminal Law

The Criminal Law of the People's Republic stipulates that whoever criminally violates a woman's rights shall be punished.

Article 179 stipulates that whoever interferes with another person's freedom of marriage through violence shall be sentenced to imprisonment for no more than three years. Most of the victims of this crime are women.

The Criminal Law also defines the punishment for crimes of mal-

treatment and desertion. In most cases, women, old people and children are the victims of desertion.

Vile criminal activities against women such as rape and physical abuse will be punished severely according to law, with some violators even sentenced to death.

Upholding Justice for Women

THE Yanshan People's Court is a district court in Beijing. Like many other courts in China, it handles a large number of civil and criminal cases relating to women.

As one can see from the following cases, the court regards it as its duty to safeguard women's rights.

Interfering With an Engagement

A worker named Ma had been courting a woman in his factory off and on for some years. Later, both agreed to end their relationship. But later when Ma discovered that the woman was engaged to another man, he badgered her on many occasions to break off the engagement. One day, he rushed to the woman's workshop and hit her over the head with a chair and beat her with a leg of the chair, injuring her in many places.

After the incident occurred, some people thought it was just a private affair between Ma and his girl friend and no fuss of a legal suit was needed. But the court insisted that Ma had threatened his former girl friend to break off her engagement with another person by force, which means that he had interfered with another person's marriage. The case was flagrant in nature and Ma had violated the Criminal Law. The court later

sentenced him to two years of imprisonment.

Case of Libel

A young worker named Fang courted a girl living close to his home in the countryside, but he was refused. Spurned, he bore her a grudge and pasted posters on the door of the village shop, the wall of a nearby restaurant and in the girl's unit, all making stories to defame her and her family. The local people's court found Fang guilty of libel and sentenced him to six months of detention.

Husband Guilty of Abuse

A worker named Yang met his wife when he worked in the countryside. They got married in 1977 and gave birth to a boy.

Later, Yang was recruited by a factory in the city, moved there and soon developed a love affair with a woman named Ma who also worked in the factory. He threw his wife out of their home and went to the court to apply for a divorce.

To save the marriage, the court overruled Yang's claim. At the same time, factory leaders criticized Yang and Ma and urged them to correct their mistakes. But Yang refused to repent, and, together with Ma, went to beat up his wife.

One day, when the wife went to

Yang's house to visit her sick child, Yang hit her head, face and limbs with his fists and leather shoes. Distressed, she developed neurosis.

Seeing that there was no way to bring the two together, the court, taking into consideration the request of the wife, agreed the two should divorce. But, based on the provision of protecting a woman's personal safety, the court found Yang guilty of causing injury and sentenced him to two years of imprisonment.

Disputes Over Child Support

A school teacher divorced his rural wife more than a dozen years ago, and the two agreed then that the husband would contribute 150 yuan a year to support their three children and pay the wife 450 yuan for her living expense and the family debt. After the divorce the

husband moved to Beijing and concealed his address for 12 years. He failed to pay child support and the money owed his former wife, causing the woman great difficulty.

Later the woman discovered his whereabouts and brought her children to Beijing to file a suit against him. The teacher sought to eliminate or reduce the payment on the excuse that he had a new family and was short on money.

But the court ruled that the teacher had deliberately concealed his address to escape the obligation to support his children and help his ex-wife. The court decided that the teacher should pay his former wife 1,840 yuan; 500 immediately and the rest would be deducted from his salary in instalments of 25 yuan a month. The teacher was also ordered to pay the woman and children traffic fare home.

Legal Aid Takes to the Streets

ON February 12 this year, 74 publicity booths were set up in Beijing and its outskirts to provide the public, particularly women, with judicial consulting services. More than 2,000 lawyers, solicitors, judicial workers and public security personnel and more than 1,200 college teachers and students assisted

The Beijing municipal government supported the legal aid day. Many leading cadres went to the various booths to answer questions.

Deputy Mayor An Lin had a talk with a middle-aged woman who complained that her marriage was about to break up because her husband was having an affair with another woman. Her husband often beat her and did not allow her to go home. The deputy mayor consoled the woman, telling her that her husband had violated the law and should be denounced by

the public. He also encouraged her to seek legal recourse and wrote down her name and address, promising to help her investigate the case.

One legal aid booth was set up in the square at the Beijing Railway Station. Forty-seven judicial workers from the Beijing Municipal Judicial Bureau, the Supreme People's Court, the Intermediate People's Court and the procuratorate worked at five desks to answer legal questions about family relations, the status of women in the family, property inheritance and abuse of women.

A railway worker came to seek advice about problems in his friend's family. The husband fell in love with another woman and he worried the wife and child might be deserted. He hoped the judicial departments would interfere and denounce acts that disrupt family life.

The judicial workers agreed and made notes on what he had said. They also told him the wife should get in touch with her local judicial departments to seek help.

At a legal aid booth near the corner of the busy shopping centre of Xidan, a middle-aged woman complained tearfully about her hard luck.

She had been married for four years. In the beginning, the couple was very close. But after she gave birth to a girl, her husband, who wanted a son, became disappointed and often cursed her and beat her.

A lawyer consoled her and explained her rights under the law. He also told her that her husband had violated the law. The lawyer decided to visit the family so he could learn more about the case.

The women's legal aid booths exhibited 126 sets of photos and picture posters describing the rights of women and children. In addition, 918 replicas of the displays were exhibited along many streets. A neighbourhood committee in the suburbs exhibited more than 60 picture boards depicting actual cases from the area, and the boards attracted more than 20,000 viewers.

Tapes of speeches made by officials of the state judicial departments and the Beijing municipal government were played on the streets, and performances were given in front of the Beijing Department Store on Wangfujing Street to publicize women's rights.

From 9 am to 4 pm on that day, the 74 booths received 3,500 people, including workers, peasants, teachers, students, cadres, scientific and technical personnel and housewives from Beijing and elsewhere.

The day-long publicity campaign gave thousands of people an introduction to the legal system. And many of the complaints aired have resulted in legal actions that have been or will soon be resolved. □

Worker-Peasant Gap Grows Smaller

from "GUANGMING RIBAO"
(Guangming Daily)

As the average peasant income rose 130 per cent over the past five years, the historic gap in standard of living between China's workers and peasants grew much smaller.

A survey of 30,000 peasant households in 600 counties and 9,000 worker households in 47 cities shows the implementation of economic policies since 1978 has moved towards erasing the gulf in income and standard of living. In 1978, the survey says, the ratio of average income of peasants to workers was 1 to 2.37. But by 1983 that ratio was cut to 1 to 1.7.

The gap in consumer spending has also been narrowed, though to a lesser degree. In 1978 the average peasant trailed the worker in consumer spending by a 1-2.28 ratio. By 1983, the ratio was down to 1 to 2.03. With price hikes excluded, the ratio was exactly 1 to 2.

Rapidly expanding peasant income was the chief reason for the narrowing gap. The average peasant income shot up 130 per cent in the five years, reaching 330 yuan (US\$132) per year by 1983. City workers saw their average climb by 66.5 per cent to 525 yuan (US\$210).

With more money to spend, the consumer habits of both peasants and workers have changed. High protein, low-fat foods are much sought after and more and more shoppers are looking for high-quality clothing and durable consumer goods.

The survey also turned up information on the improving housing situation. In 1983, the average peasant had 11.6 square

metres of living space, up 3.5 square metres over 1978. City workers, meanwhile, saw their living space increase from 4.2 square metres in 1978 to 5.9 square metres in 1983.

Remembering the Old Beijing Home

from "RENMIN RIBAO"
(People's Daily)

From the time I was born up to 1948, said Hou Baolin, a Beijing native and a famous cross talk performer. Beijing never recovered from its depression. At the age of eight, I remember trolley cars first coming to Beijing. It was also that year that the Kuomintang government moved to Nanjing. As rich officials and businessmen headed south one after another, poor people were seen everywhere. I lived in a lane with dozens of families, where only one family had a bicycle.

To the east of our court, there was a hill composed of years' collection of rubbish. From the bird's view at the top of the hill, you could see the whole court and marvel at the techniques of the old Beijing plasterers — the nine

houses in the court were constructed with not even one brick. The roof edges were trimmed with tiles, but the other parts of the roof were covered with grey plaster.

As for the food of the people under the roofs, once or twice every week they enjoyed their substitute for meat — fat soup. Spring Festival Day was an exception, of course.

It is difficult now to locate my old house. The old court has been torn down. On the foundation where it once stood, the chemical building of Beijing Normal University has been set up, training many talented youngsters for the country. Today I live in spacious, bright rooms in a tall building. Yes, housing in Beijing is still lacking much. But earth-shaking change has taken place. And the people's government is striving to build more houses for the people.

100-Year-Olds Abound on Hainan

from "BEIJING WANBAO"
(Beijing Evening News)

Statistics from the 1982 general census dispel the old myth that people live shorter lives in tropical areas. The numbers show that the average life span on tropical Hainan Island is almost five years

more than the national average, and that the island is home to more 100-year-olds than any other part of the country.

A total of 3,765 centenarians were counted in the census. Of the total, 61 lived on Hainan Island, accounting for one per 100,000 island residents. Else

where in the nation, 100-year-olds account for only 0.37 of every 100,000 people. Guangdong Province, also in the tropical south, had 0.75 centenarians per 100,000.

While the average life span in China was found to be 68 years, Hainan Island residents live an average of 72.89 years, and residents of Hainan's Yaxian County average 74.57 years.

Of the 61 centenarians on Hainan Island, 10 lived in urban

areas, 30 in mountainous areas, and 21 on the plain. Thirteen were male and 48 female. In a sample survey of 40, 39 were found to be cordial and optimistic.

Hainan's longevity is credited to good weather and fresh air, sound medical service since 1949; the rise in living standard; a staple diet of rice, yams, melons and vegetables; regular daily life; frequent exercise; and years of physical labour

Using robots in the technological reforms in traditional industries will also improve the quality of the products and promote economic efficiency.

Producing electronic goods requires higher precision than other types of work. With human workers, the precision work can be disturbed by distracting emotions, physical conditions or the working environment, so it is difficult to keep high quality. Robots can remove the human variables to ensure the quality of products and the level of productivity.

Ordinary mechanical equipment can hardly meet the demands in some enterprises, where a rich variety of products are manufactured in small orders or continuously replaced by new products. The development of soft technology requires robots to form a complete set, so as to realize automation of even the smallest quantities.

All this indicates that the key problem in China is how to expedite robotization. An early understanding of this spurs people into making the changes. Otherwise people will be passive, and lag behind making the transformations necessary

Robots Needed in China's Plants

from JINGJI RIBAO
(Economic Daily)

THE question in China's industrial sector is no longer whether further automation and robots are needed, but how they can be implemented as fast as possible.

In present-day China, there are some 10 million workers who face harmful and dangerous conditions in their job. Working in places where the air is full of dust, heavy vibration, high or very low temperatures, noxious gas or even radiation, the workers face too many risks. There jobs should be turned over to machines so the workers can return to safer tasks

China has long been looking into the prospects for robots and automation. In 1960, the Dalian Combined Machine Tool Institute began researching industrial robots. The specialists there maintain that robots fit the bill for doing dangerous work and can be programmed to do all kinds of boring, repetitive work.

In producing such items as automobiles, glass, enamel, fireproof materials and paints, robots can save human workers from dangerous tasks. For instance, in au-

tomobile production, workers punching the steel components are susceptible to having their fingers crushed. Robots can perfectly finish the work of punching with no risk to workers. Dangerous welding and casting jobs and work involving explosives can also be automated

Another beauty of robots is they can cut down on labour needs and improve productivity in heavy, simple and repeated work.

Families in Special Economic Zones

from "SHIJIE JINGJI
DAOBAO"
(World Economic Herald)

PARTICIPANTS to the first national symposium of family study in mid-May later visited families in Shenzhen and Shekou, where special economic policies have been introduced. They discovered four general characteristics pertaining to families in the special economic zones

1. The management of their family economy is scientific and rational. In the past, a fisherman's family lived on a fishing boat, and the family's sole economic activity was fishing. Now the family is engaged not only in fishing, but also in farming, industry and even in commerce. Due to their rational distribution of time for each member of the family, and of work for the strong and the weak, most of the families have achieved good economic results. In 1983 the

average per-capita income for Shenzhen fishermen's families was 2,837 yuan.

2. There have been changes in the trends relating to choice of marriage partner. In the past young men and women aimed their attentions at those who lived in more prosperous regions. Young people from the mountainous areas liked to marry those on the plains, and the people on the plains looked to Hongkong to find their spouses. Now it is not uncommon to see women workers from Hongkong marry young peasants from Shenzhen, and young men from Hongkong come to Shenzhen to choose their girl friends. Also, young people nowadays tend to

prefer spouses who are well educated and knowledgeable.

3. The family structure has become simpler. In the past, a family usually consisted of three generations living together. Now a family most often has only three members, father, mother and their child. This type of family, which is harmonious in family relations and convenient for family management, accounts for 80-90 per cent of all families in Shenzhen.

4. Viewpoints on domestic issues have changed. Young couples nowadays usually do not like big families, although some old people still hold to the traditional view that "many children make for happiness in one's old age."

Peasant-Artists Enjoy Painting

from "GUANGMING RIBAO"
(Guangming Daily)

WHEN the village of Dongzhuang in Shandong Province conquered its worst drought in 50 years last years, doubling cotton and cereal grains production to record levels, even old peasants who had hung up their brushes years ago brought them out again to celebrate the honeysweet life and the laughter overflowing from each threshold

Recently 13 of their works were shown at the Liaozheng prefecture Fine Arts Exhibition and the Second Fine Arts Exhibition of Shandong Peasants. Their works were also taken to the National Symposium of Peasants' Fine Arts, winning attention and praise from central fine arts departments.

In *A Hundred Birds Twittering for the Spring*, *Phoenix Peony*, and *Airing Our New Cotton* are found bold lines, and vivid images

endowed with a sense of the peasants' happiness and fortitude. Besides flowers, birds, insects, fish and landscapes, the new outlook of the countryside led by the Party appears in their pictures.

Dongzhuang's history of painting goes back more than 200 years. Spring festival was regarded as the "painting season," and the villagers created 50,000 sets of pictures every year, which were much sought after not only on the local market but in 10 other provinces.

The younger generation is bringing fresh inspiration to the "village of painting." Dong Guifang, 17, began studying painting with her grandfather when she was five and was later sent to classes in the county town. Her *Merry New Spring* mixed a striking contrast of traditional colouring with the three-dimensional characteristics and transparency of Western painting and gouache.

BOOKS

'Contemporary China' Series

A 200-volume series entitled *Contemporary China* (in Chinese) will be published in stages over the next five years by the China Social Sciences Publishing House.

Through the efforts of several thousand editors, the comprehensive series covers five major categories: The first includes titles such as *China's Contemporary Economy*, *China's Contemporary Political System* and *The Chinese Communist Party*. The second reports on the present situation in *China's Iron and Steel Company*, *China's Agriculture* and *China's Commerce*. The third category includes special reports on *The Present Problem of China's Population*, *Land Reform in China* and *Socialist Transformation of China's Capitalist Industry and Commerce*. The fourth gives readers an introduction to China's regions and cities, with titles such as *The Present Beijing*, *The Present Jiangsu* and *China's Tibet Today*. And the last section contains biographies, including *Biography of Mao Zedong* and *Biography of Zhou Enlai*.

The first six volumes are expected to be published this year. The first two volumes, due out before the Oct. 1 National Day celebrations, are *China's Current Reform of the Economic System* and *China's Meteorology*. The other four volumes to be published in 1984 are *China's Sports*, *China's Arts and Crafts*, *China's Textile Industry* and *China's Light Industry*. It is estimated that beginning next year about 30 to 40 volumes will come out each year. The series is expected to be completed before 1989, prior to the 40th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Old and New Ideas Clash on Theatre Stage

In a tiny village in north China live two large families. The patriarchs—a grandmother in one family and a grandfather in the other—have decided to arrange the marriage of their grandchildren. This raises the hackles of the young man in question and triggers a hubbub between the two families, bringing their long-time good relations to an end.

To add fuel to the flames, one of Grandma Zheng's grandsons falls in love with his widowed sister-in-law, which sparks some lively reactions that only complicate the family confusion.

Giving birth to two girls in a row, the daughter-in-law is jeered and mistreated by her husband.

A scene from "Festivities of Marriage and Funeral."

the fifth son in the family, and her mother-in-law, Grandma Zheng, who still believes that boys are superior to girls. The husband is determined to have a son, so he ignores the state's call for each couple to have only one child.

Grandma Zheng's second son is full of filial piety until his mother lies on her deathbed. He then joins another man and together they burn incense joss-sticks in an attempt to borrow longevity for his dying mother. Failing that, he turns to a blind fortune-teller for help.

The complicated saga of countryside life unfolds on a Beijing theatre stage. Premiered by the Beijing People's Art Theatre, *Festivities of Marriage and Funeral*, in rustic colour and brisk stroke, portrays present-day country life, with its mix of old and new.

The playwright not only shows the audience the 1980s vintage village buildings and power-driven wells, but also depicts how deft women turn maize stalks into delicately woven handbags for export.

But while much is new in this tiny village, a few old ideas have never disappeared. And the contradiction between new and old ideas keeps the drama going. Grandma Zheng had taken part in the anti-landlord movement 40 years earlier and lent a hand to the revolutionary army. She knows what revolution means. However, being the oldest in the family and the most experienced, at least in her own mind, Grandma Zheng takes it for granted that she is the one who calls the shots in the family. She is bent on running

even her grandson's marital affairs, quite unaware of the consequences to the younger generation. In the play, Grandma Zheng is not the only one in the family beset with new and old ideas. Her second, third and fifth sons—though honest, educated and Communist Party members—are also plunged into the conflict of ideas. Even an orphan adopted by the other family Qi turns out to be a fatalist, however keen she is for scientific knowledge. The girl swallows her bitterness in saying farewell to the young man she is in love with and goes out of her way to persuade him to follow his grandmother's instructions on marriage. Later on, she willingly goes to borrow longevity for the dying Grandma Zheng, hoping that she is able to delay the old woman's final breaths.

As the play unfolds, the audience sees that people are changing their old ideas in the wake of the modernization drive. They begin expelling feudal hangovers as they make their way towards a brighter future.

For three hours the audience is steeped in comic atmosphere. Time and again, hearty laughter rings out. And with the laughing, the playgoers come to realize that quite a few places in the country are still haunted by old feudal beliefs.

Denouncing the old ideas is the main theme of *Festivities of Marriage and Funeral*. Such a theme is not often seen in the theatres around the country. The play finds its glamour from excellent direction and the sermon-free lines of the characters.



Hebei dialect is used in place of the Beijing dialect to make the play realistic. And while the dialect breathes rustic life into the play, it occasionally adds a touch of humour.

Festivities of Marriage and Funeral won first prize from a Cultural Ministry-sponsored competition last July, beating out four local operas, two operas and five other stage plays. Although all the works are about the new life in the urban and rural areas, *Festivities of Marriage and Funeral* is in a class of its own.

Cultural Exchanges Take the Stage

As a switch from performing Chinese dramas with national characteristics, the Beijing People's Art Theatre recently staged a Romanian play, *A Wagon Loaded With Clowns*, to mark Romania's 40th National Day.

Depicting the life of a wandering Romanian artist and his efforts to establish native Romanian drama in the late 19th century, *A Wagon Loaded With Clowns* is one of many foreign works performed by the Beijing theatre in the last few years to boost cultural exchanges. These works include William Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*; Moliere's *The Miser*; Butcher, a play from the Federal Republic of Germany about the struggle against the fascist dictatorship; Arthur Miller's *The Death of a Salesman*; a Brazilian play entitled *Aesop*; and *Fair Public Opinion*, another work from Romania.

Established in 1952, the Beijing People's Art Theatre is one of the most influential modern drama theatres in China, with a staff of excellent actors and directors. To strengthen cultural exchanges with foreign countries, the theatre has also toured abroad. In 1980, the troupe went to the Federal Repub-

lic of Germany, France and Sweden to stage *Teahouse*, a play by the late Lao She, a great novelist and playwright. The theatrical troupe impressed European audiences with its strong performance depicting the great changes in Chinese society over a period of 50 years up to the 1940s. The theatre has also entertained Hongkong playgoers with *Wang Zhaojun*, a work by Cao Yu about a lady-in-waiting at the Han imperial court 2,000 years ago. Cao, a leading playwright in China, is also head of the theatre and Chairman of the Chinese Dramatists' Association.

Zoologists Track Snow Leopards

A group of Chinese and American zoologists tracking the nearly extinct snow leopard have spotted the rare cat in the mountains of Qinghai Province, but their studies indicate the beautiful animal's environment has been seriously harmed by the encroachment of man.

A survey team organized by the World Wildlife Fund and the Chinese Ministry of Forestry searched the mountains in Yushu and Goluo Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures in Qinghai Province, the province north and east of Tibet. Their findings indicate the snow leopard still lives on the 4,000-metre-high Qinghai-Tibet plateau.

Only several days after the 40-day survey began, the zoologists received an unexpected thrill. During an afternoon excursion on a snow mountain in Goluo prefecture in search of signs of the snow leopard's existence, they actually came upon one cat in the process of killing a marmot. Such sightings are extremely rare.

Most of the time the research team members have to satisfy their

curiosity with findings of snow leopard dung or fallen hairs. During the survey, the zoologists discovered some 40 dung piles, which have revealed some sad news. Snow leopards are normally carnivorous animals, with a diet that includes marmots, deer, bharal sheep, mountain goats and wild yaks. But the researchers have discovered a significant amount of grass in the dung, which indicates that the animals the leopard normally eats are in short supply. The zoologists feel that human activities in the area have damaged the environment to the point where the snow leopard's food chain has been disrupted.

Snow leopards usually go out in search of food early in the morning or late in the evening. They can run so fast that they often travel as far as 200 kilometres in a single day, covering an area of as much as 50 square kilometres.

Dr. George Schaller, the New York Zoological Society Conservation director who participated in the survey of the giant panda in China's Wolong Nature Reserve in Sichuan Province, is now focusing his attention on the snow leopards. He said the snow leopard study is the second largest co-operative Sino-US wildlife study ranking behind only the panda survey. Tracking snow leopards is much more difficult than surveying giant pandas. Dr. Schaller said the sighting so early in the survey was the most exciting experience in his more than 10 years of study.

The World Wildlife Fund and the Chinese Government departments plan for the joint survey to go on for five years. And a world nature reserve for the snow leopard is expected to be set up on Qinghai plateau and its neighbouring areas after zoologists have a better understanding of the distribution of the leopard, its living areas and habits.

ART PAGE

Traditional Chinese Paintings by Wu Hualun

Wu Hualun bases his work on traditional Chinese painting, but is constantly incorporating new ideas and always seeking new ways of presentation. His works are well conceived and charming.

Born in 1942 in Tianjin, Wu is now an art editor at the Beijing People's Art Publishing House.



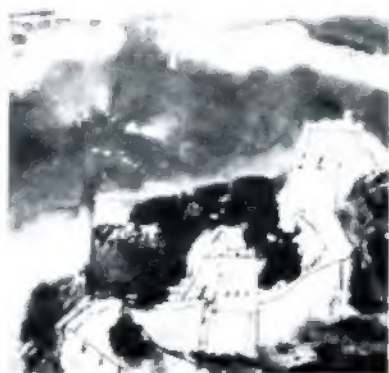
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